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45 homes still without power. PAGE 3

Illegal fishing boat owner settles case for $500K. PAGE 5

Pregnant woman found dead in hotel room

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A pregnant woman was found dead in a hotel room in Susupe Friday morning, according to the Department of Public Safety yesterday.

DPS spokesman Jason Tarkong said investigators found no signs of injuries on the victim and that foul play has been ruled out.

Tarkong said investigators learned that the victim, a 39-year-old woman, had a history of mental illness.

Investigators described the victim as

See PREGNANT on Page 4

Lawyers: Marine monument decree unlawful

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

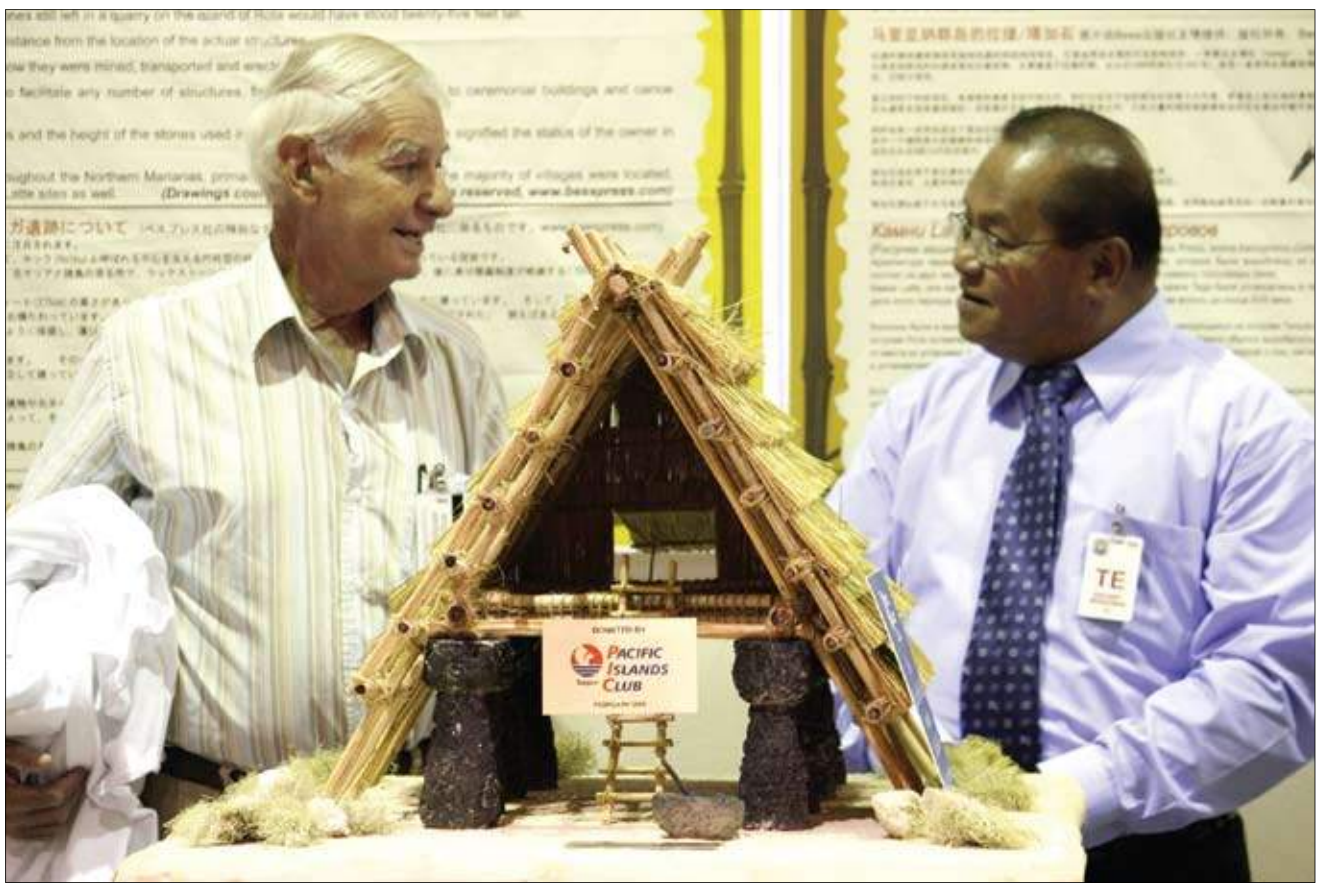
Former President George H.W. Bush did not have the authority under the Antiquities Act to manage fishing activity in huge swaths of the Pacific Ocean, including the areas around the CNMI's three northernmost islands, based on an analysis of two lawyers writing in an American Bar Association newsletter.

The authors—James P. Walsh and Gwen Fanger of the San Francisco office

ON THE NET

- http://www.abanet.org/environ/committees/marine/newsletter/aug09/MarineRes_Aug09.pdf

See LAWYERS on Page 4



HUT REPLICAS HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Heinz Staffler, left, and acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos exchange pleasantries after the unveiling of one of two traditional Chamorro hut replicas at the Saipan International Airport yesterday morning. The displays, made by Staffler, is part of MVA's airport enhancement project. ***See story on Page 3.***

Camacho to leave CPA

RELATED NEWS

- 'CBP's intention to get spaces may be unconstitutional'

PAGE 2

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Efrain F. Camacho will be stepping down from his post in less than two months, a year after taking over the reins of the agency.

Camacho

During yesterday's special meeting, Camacho told the board that he would quit his job on Nov. 8, 2009, when his contract expires. Camacho served CPA in two capacities:

See CAMACHO on Page 4

Over $100M for federalization in 3 years

As Fitial flies to meet anew with DHS' Napolitano

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security expects spending a total of at least $112.4 million to implement the federalization law in the CNMI on Nov. 28 using a three-phased approach until FY 2011.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will meet again with Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano next week to reiterate the

See OVER on Page 4

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of September 16, 2009

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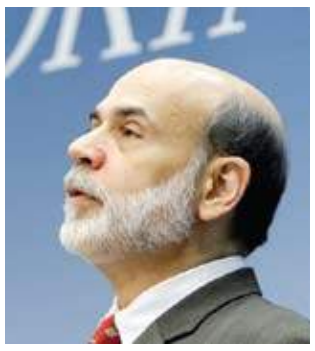
Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE



'It's Over'

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said the worst recession since the 1930s is probably over.

BUSINESS...Page 14

'So Sorry'

It looks like Kanye West has finally given a personal apology to Taylor Swift.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

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Local

'CBP's intention to get spaces may be unconstitutional'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Fitial administration has expressed concern about the request of the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection to access sites at all CNMI airports and seaports, citing a conflict between the constitutional provisions in Public Law 110-229 with respect to public lands and the Covenant inked by the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth Ports Authority board member Benigno Sablan told his colleagues that this issue arose during a Sept. 9 meeting with Gov. Benigno Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, and the Attorney General's Office when they tackled the CBP request.

CPA executive director Efrain F. Camacho had reported to the board that CBP, in a letter to the agency, had cited the need for CPA to provide the needed sites for CBP's headquarters on three islands.

On Saipan, the site is located in a warehouse facility of the Duty-Free Shoppers, which has a standing lease agreement with CPA until 2015.

CPA legal counsel Joe Bermudes said the agency stands to lose $19,050 a month for the identified site if it goes to CBP. He said DFS was already informed about the matter.

"The governor's concern is the constitutional provision with respect to public lands," said Bermudes, who was also present at the Sept. 9 meeting with the administration.

Bermudes disclosed that the governor has appointed special legal counsel Howard Willens to lead negotiations with the CBP.

"I believe the administration [through Willens] is thinking of a compromise deal [with CBP]," Bermudes said, adding that CPA will provide all the needed documents to Willens.

Camacho disclosed that CBP wants CPA to bear the cost of any renovations that will be made on the site, which he said may not be possible due to the lack of funding for the purpose.

"We may work with CBP on the site…but to shoulder the cost for any development on the area would not be possible because we have no funding," board member Thomas Villagomez told the board, adding that the authority of the CBP to classify airports as domestic or international also creates some confusion.

Barry Toves, the CPA board member from Rota, also expressed worry about the expected entry of CBP. He is not convinced that CBP has the authority to classify the airports; he believes that authority is with the Federal Transit Authority.

If Rota and Tinian are classified as domestic airports, Toves said they will be barred from accommodating international flights, which could hurt both islands' tourism industries.

The cost of modernizing the Tinian and Rota airports to become "international" is also a serious concern because the CNMI may not be able to afford the advanced equipment needed, according to board members.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said the Fitial administration is "making every effort to prepare for the worst and help achieve the smoothest transition possible under very difficult circumstances."

Last week, CPA informed Richard Vigna, field operations director of CBP, that his office's request for space has been referred to the Governor's Office.

"The U.S. CBP request for spaces at the CNMI airports and seaports has spawned great concerns that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial met with the CPA board, staff attorney, and the AGO. After considerable discussion of the request for space, it was agreed by the CPA board that all matters pertaining and relating to the CBP operation at the airport and seaports shall be channeled to the Office of the Governor," Camacho said in his letter.

He added that Willens will lead talks on CBP matters at CNMI airports and seaports.

DHS is scheduled to take over the Commonwealth's immigration system on Nov. 28.

CULTURAL HERITAGE MONTH HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Acting Gov. Eloy Inos signs a proclamation declaring Sept. 12 to Oct. 12 CNMI Cultural Heritage Month, which will be highlighted by the Chief Aghurubw Annual Celebration on Managaha Island originally set for Sept. 19 but will be moved to Sept. 26 due to weather conditions. Joining Inos during a brief proclamation signing on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon were employees and officials of the Carolinian Affairs Office led by executive assistant for Carolinian Affairs Angie W. Iginoef-Mangarero, other members of the Carolinian community, and guests.

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PAID FOR BY CHARLES P. REYES, JR.

Chamorro hut replicas unveiled at Saipan airport

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Citing the importance of showcasing cultural pride to visitors and residents, acting Gov. Eloy Inos and Marianas Visitors Authority officials yesterday unveiled one of two traditional Chamorro hut replicas at the Saipan International Airport.

The display unveiled is located at the airport arrival area, while the other replica is located at the departure area.

Heinz Staffler, a 72-year-old Austrian who has been on Saipan for 32 years, made the two hut replicas, each measuring 30 inches long, 18 inches high, and 20 inches wide.

Each of the display huts is made from ironwood tree, dried ordinary grass and bamboo, while the latte stones are made from a mix of cement and black tile grout. Staffler also used sand for the base of the display.

"With this new display, we are showcasing our culture and creating a warm, inviting and attractive environment to welcome our traveling guests to our islands," Inos said during a brief unveiling ceremony at the airport arrival area.

Ed Arriola, chair of MVA's destination enhancement and airport certification ad-hoc committees, said private and government entities from the CNMI, Guam and Hawaii inspected and approved the displays' similarities with authentic Chamorro huts.

In his remarks, Inos also noted the 9-percent increase in arrival in August as reported by MVA on Monday. From 34,251 in August 2008, arrivals went up to 37,206 in August this year.

"This is encouraging and I hope this trend continues, but I know we are facing challenges with flight capacity and the next few months are not peak tourism months," he added.

The display is part of MVA's airport enhancement project which also includes the kid's display developed by Northwest Airlines in 2007, the welcome and farewell signage installed in 2008, and an eco-tourism display sponsored by Tasi Tours/PMT early this year.

Also in the pipeline are a sports hall of fame and a diving photo display.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, MVA board chair Jerry Tan, Inos and other MVA officials thanked Pacific Islands Club, represented by Vicky Benavente at the ceremony, for donating the Chamorro hut display.

Benavente said the traditional Chamorro hut replicas will be permanently on display at the airport.

Inos and Benavente said this is an example of "strong partnership" between the government and the private sector for the CNMI's common good.

"Our tourist arrival numbers will fluctuate and we are still dealing with a soft tourism market, but if we make every effort to provide a welcoming environment for tourists, and if we give our valued tourists reasons to visit the CNMI, tourists will continue to arrive and our tourism arrival numbers will grow in the years ahead," Inos said.

Staffler, for his part, said he's "very proud" that his miniature traditional Chamorro huts are now on display at the Saipan airport. He said he spent three weeks to make one replica.

He said Pacific Islands Club paid him $1,200 for the first display and $1,000 for the second one. He said those who want to order a traditional Chamorro hut display from him should contact him at 483-9463 or through e-mail at winecellar@vzpacifica.net.

Two big Chamorro huts by Staffler will also be on display outside the Kalavera Cave in Marpi either late this year or early next year.

Staffler said he has built 51 houses or structures on Saipan, including a brewery on Capital Hill.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, Heinz Staffler, acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Jerry Tan (partly hidden), and Pacific Islands Club's Vicky Benavente applaud as they unveil one of two traditional Chamorro hut replicas at the Saipan International Airport yesterday morning.

45 homes still without power

CUC gets 150 calls for assistance, report

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A day after Super Typhoon Choi-Wan skirted Saipan, about 45 homes still had no power as of 4:30pm yesterday, according to Commonwealth Utilities Corp. assistant executive director Abe Utu Malae, who said they expect power to be restored to these homes before Friday.

He said CUC fielded a total of 150 calls during and after the typhoon on Tuesday, with almost half of the callers seeking assistance for the restoration of power in their homes. Some callers reported seeing sparks on power lines and other complaints.

Malae

Malae said CUC personnel immediately attended to all these power outages, with 25 being reconnected to the power supply at once.

At 2am yesterday, some places experienced power interruptions such as in the Dandan area where it took some hours to reconnect the lines, Malae said.

Since Tuesday, he said, CUC has been having problems with Feeders 3, 4, and 7. Outages were caused mainly by transformer failures and damaged power poles due to some vegetation brushing against the power lines.

In an incident Tuesday, Malae said, six families were forced out of their homes when a nearby transformer failed.

"All the feeders are on right now…and our personnel are currently addressing individual homes that still don't have power. We're expecting to complete the works before Friday," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Malae said CUC line crews continue to work in 12-hour shifts in order to restore power to customers.

CUC continued to receive calls at its control center yesterday.

"Restoration priority is given to the primary or high tension lines, then the laterals and then service drops to individual homes," he said, adding that more important than the speed of restoration is the safety of the line crews, especially since they work at night.

Malae said the number of hours the crew work is limited in order to avoid fatigue.

Feeders 4/7 suffered the greatest damage during the typhoon, affecting Lower Base, Sadog Tasi, Capital Hill, I-Denni, As Teo, Papago, Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, and As Matuis.

"Fortunately, Saipan did not suffer a direct hit from the typhoon or CUC would be looking at weeks to recover," he said.

Customers who feel that he/she may have been inadvertently overlooked may call the Control Center at 235 0282 or 235 2282. State their name, location of the outage, telephone number and any extenuating circumstance such as a family member on life support.

CUC, he said, is thankful for the patience and understanding of its customers.

Alamagan, Agrihan resident all safe

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Super Typhoon Choi-Wan gained even more strength yesterday as it moved farther from the Northern Islands, packing maximum sustained winds of 160 miles per hour.

Fourteen people, including a 4-day-old baby, on Alamagan and four residents on Agrihan were all reported safe, according to Emergency Management Office geophysical seismic technician/supervisor John Takai Camacho.

As of 1pm yesterday, Super Typhoon Choi-Wan was 170 miles west of Agrihan, 200 miles west-northwest of Alamagan, and 310 miles north-northwest of Saipan.

From maximum sustained winds of 150 mph Tuesday night, the super typhoon gained more strength yesterday afternoon, packing 160 mph as it moved west-northwest at 10 mph from the Northern Islands.

At 2pm, the National Weather Service declared that no watches or warnings were in effect in the CNMI. The typhoon warning for Agrihan was canceled at 11:30am yesterday.

Camacho said EMO and the residents of Alamagan and Agrihan have been communicating through radios. He said the signal was very bad and EMO could hardly understand them but they soon learned that the residents had emerged unscathed.

"There's one infant—4 days old. They are doing fine. We're communicating with them," Camacho said.

Camacho said it will take three days before they can assess the damage to crops and property in the Northern Islands.

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OVER

From Page 1

need to include Chinese and Russian tourists in the visa waiver program. If not, he wants to further delay federalization.

Fitial left yesterday for a brief personal trip to Manila to visit an ailing friend, before leaving for Washington, D.C. to meet with Napolitano on Tuesday.

"We would request the inclusion of Chinese and Russian tourists in the visa waiver program. If we don't get that, we will support deferral of federalization so the waiver program can be worked at by DHS and the CNMI," acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Spending projections and actual expenditures to date by component agencies of DHS are contained in the department's responses submitted only last week to 34 questions posed by the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources chaired by Rep. Nick J. Rahall II (D-WV) in May.

Rahall, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), Delegate Madeleine Bordallo (D-Gu), and ranking Republican member Rep. Henry E. Brown (R-SC) were among those who posed questions to DHS.

In January, DHS told Rahall's committee that it would need some $97 million to fulfill its responsibilities in the CNMI under P.L. 110-229.

But based on DHS' response last week, it has distributed the expected costs over three years to "realign resources."

For the first time, DHS indicated that it will fully staff and fully equip the six ports of entry in the CNMI through Fiscal Year 2011, and not by Nov. 28, 2009.

The department said since the facilities and infrastructure currently used by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services are inadequate to support U.S. Customs and Border Protection operations, DHS will be taking a phased approach to implement the standard infrastructure, information technology, and permanent staffing requirements in the CNMI.

"These requirements include ensuring an adequate power supply at CBP facilities, IT circuitry, cabling and equipment, construction of new and improvement of the existing facilities, physical security (both interior and exterior) and access control, standard maintenance and cleaning, firing range access for uniformed CBP officers, standard CBP signage, and adequate supplies of potable water," DHS said.

The Nov. 28 start of federalization falls under FY 2010, although DHS has started operating in the CNMI in FY 2009.

In the second phase beginning FY 2010, for example, DHS will provide personnel in the CNMI with a combination of experienced "temporary duty" officers and entry-level positions.

DHS said it uses temporary duty personnel as a regular practice.

"DHS personnel and equipment will be present in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands by Nov. 28, 2009, in order to fulfill our statutory responsibilities under P.L. 110-229," DHS said in response to a question posed by Sablan.

Most of DHS' projected expenses related to federalization of the CNMI will be incurred by CBP, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and USCIS.

Another DHS component, the Transportation Security Administration, does not expect to incur "additional" cost due to federalization.

Funding needed

DHS, in response to question # 21, said ICE estimates some $8 million in resources needed for the CNMI in FY 2009; $36.6 million in FY 2010; and $44.6 million in FY 2011.

These include requirements for ICE's Office of Investigations, Detention and Removal Operations, Office of the Professional Legal Advisor, and associated information technology costs.

USCIS's resource requirement for FY 2009 is $1.315 million; $1.6 million in FY 2010; and over $2 million in FY 2011.

TSA does not anticipate incurring additional costs due to P.L. 110-229, said DHS.

In its response on question # 22, DHS said "CBP anticipates spending $18.3 million to implement P.L. 110-229 in the CNMI."

But as of last week, DHS said CBP "has not obligated any FY 2009 funds to date."

DHS' response is also not clear whether the $18.3 million that CBP expects to incur covers only FY 2009, or through FY 2010.

It only said CBP is in the process of identifying the recurring requirements and the right staffing levels for FYs 2010 and 2011. "Once those requirements have been identified, the funding realignments and potential impacts can be addressed," DHS said.

All these figures provided by DHS to the House subcommittee total at least $112.4 million.

Under Phase I (FY 2009) of DHS's three-phased plan for the CNMI for the implementation of P.L. 110-229, facilities and information technology costs would be $18.3 million.

It does not have a cost breakdown for facilities and information technology for Phase II (FY 2010).

For Phase III (FY 2011), DHS said facilities and information technology costs would be $10.3 million, while personnel, relocations and temporary duty costs would be $13.42 million.

Federal jobs and infrastructure

In response to a question on employment posed by Bordallo, DHS responded that CBP "envisions an ideal end state of 53 officers and four support staff, based on current flights and sea travel into the CNMI.

Of the 53 CBP officers, 45 will be located on Saipan, and four each on Rota and Tinian. The support staff will most likely be located on Saipan.

On an interim basis, these positions will be filled with temporary duty staff for some $5 million in travel and per diem costs, while the facility and information technology costs remain at $36.8 million over time.

DHS said the airports on Saipan and Rota will be funded in FY 2009.

"Subject to availability of funds, the remaining ports will be modified to CBP standards as well as the hiring of permanent staffing," the department said.

DHS said ICE estimates at least 18 personnel for the CNMI.

Of this number, four investigative agents and one supervisory agent will be needed by ICE's Office of Investigations to investigate customs and immigration crimes, and support other DHS components in the CNMI.

ICE's Office of Detention and Removal Operations estimates 13 staff members to support CNMI operations. DHS said 10 of the 13 positions will likely be in the CNMI and three in Guam.

CAMACHO

From Page 1

as its executive director and its staff engineer.

He told *Saipan Tribune* that he will go back to the private sector and plans to rebuild his company.

Camacho informed the board of his plan to give the agency ample time to find qualified personnel to replace him.

CPA board chair Jose Lifoifoi told *Saipan Tribune* he is satisfied with Camacho's performance and described his departure from the agency as a "big loss" to CPA.

"For me, he's the best..." Lifoifoi said of Camacho, adding that the board has no choice but to accept and respect his decision.

Camacho's hiring in November 2008 spurred a minor controversy when he was named to the position despite being the president of EFC Engineers and Architects, which handles some projects of the ports authority. To appease critics, Camacho cut himself off from the company and placed it on "inactive status."

Reports that Camacho had also asked for a higher salary due to his two positions at CPA also created a minor uproar. He eventually got a $70,000 contract, serving both as a staff engineer and executive director.

Early this year, Camacho had proposed independent contracts for the agency's top key positions—executive director, comptroller, and legal counsel—but the proposal was never acted upon.

Board chair Lifoifoi said yesterday that the independent contract proposal "scared" many people, which is why they "killed" it.

Based on the proposal, CPA was projected to save substantial amounts since the agency will be free of some obligations, such as retirement contributions.

The Office of Public Auditor earlier said the top three CPA positions are exempted from the government's salary cap law ,which mandates a maximum salary of $50,000 annually.

Lifoifoi said Camacho has vowed to assist CPA when needed. This assistance will be limited to "consultations."

By a unanimous vote, the board approved the announcement of two vacancies at the agency—executive director and staff engineer—effective immediately.

Under Camacho's leadership at CPA, *Saipan Tribune* noted the following developments: the realization of the long-delayed baggage handling system that is now operational, the implementation of parking permits and cards, the formulation of standard lease rates for tenants, the renovation and upgrade at all three airport terminals, and the implementation of new tariff rates for all seaport rates and activities.

Prior to Camacho's appointment, CPA was in state of emergency due to problems in its bond indenture agreements for both airports and seaports.

PREGNANT

From Page 1

possibly Caucasian or Chamorro. Police withheld her name pending notification of next of kin.

DPS has asked the Office of the Attorney General to have a forensic pathologist conduct an autopsy on the victim, Tarkong said.

Police did not say how far the victim was in her pregnancy and the status of the child she was carrying.

On Friday at 11:05am, police responded to Saipan World Resort Hotel after receiving a call about a dead person.

A police officer met with the hotel staff and learned that a woman who had no pulse and was not breathing had been found in one of the rooms.

Preliminary investigation showed that the victim had checked in at the hotel on Thursday, Sept. 10, around 11am.

Hotel staff noticed a massive swelling on the woman's legs as she walked through the lobby. Hotel employees offered to call an ambulance so she could get medical treatment, but she refused their help.

The next day, Friday, at 11am, the hotel management knocked on the victim's door several times. When there was no response, they opened the door to check in on her.

The management found the victim lying in the bathroom unresponsive, with no pulse and not breathing. The staff contacted police.

Medics transported the victim to the Commonwealth Health Center where Dr. Gregory Kotheimer pronounced her dead at 12:36pm on the same day.

As of yesterday no medical history has been diagnosed to support the cause of death, Tarkong said.

LAWYERS

From Page 1

of the law firm Davis Wright Tremaine LLP—published their analysis in the August 2009 edition of ABA's Marine Resources Committee Newsletter.

A copy of the newsletter can be accessed at http://www.abanet.org/environ/committees/marine/newsletter/aug09/MarineRes_Aug09.pdf.

Walsh and Fanger said Bush created the Pacific marine protected areas using the authority under the Antiquities Act "without in-depth scientific and environmental analysis, and without formal public comment."

"Despite the alleged need to protect the marine areas because of environmental concerns, none of the Pacific MPAs [marine protected areas] were accompanied by any scientific analysis regarding the actual threat of fishing activity to the health of the marine ecosystems in the Pacific MPAs," they said.

The lawyers said the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the National Marine Sanctuaries Act have clear procedures for crafting the protections necessary for marine protected areas within the exclusive economic zone, with full public participations and transparency, which is lacking in the Antiquities Act Proclamation process.

"While the general objective of protecting the oceans is commendable, disregarding applicable law to achieve that objective is not. The ends, no matter how politically correct, do not justify ignoring and sidestepping established law," said the lawyers.

They said the Antiquities Act contains no congressional authority to unilaterally create monuments beyond the 3-mile territorial limit traditionally applied to domestic statutes, particularly with respect to fishing activities in the water column that are not related to lands, submerged or otherwise.

Walsh and Fanger also said the Magnuson-Stevens Act and NMSA trump the vague authority of the Antiquities Act with respect to management of free-swimming fish outside U.S. territorial jurisdiction but within the exclusive economic zone.

The lawyers said the Antiquities Act was Bush's most powerful top-down regulatory tool in his sweeping ocean policy.

Just before he left office, Bush, on Jan. 6, 2009, created the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument surrounding the CNMI's islands of Farallon de Pajaros, Maug and Asuncion, and the Rose Atoll Marine National Monument in American Samoa.

Another point stressed by the lawyers is that "pressures for change in ocean policy seem to emanate primarily from a few private trust funds, their administrators, and trust family leaders who are pursuing aggressive programs to influence specific outcomes through public 'campaigns.'"

One such trust is the Pew Charitable Trusts, a non-profit organization that, among other things, has actively pursued the expansion of MPAs.

The authors said "much of the push for the Marianas Trench Monument MPA was publicly associated with the Pew Charitable Trusts."

The Friends of the Monument, which is composed of CNMI residents, was the main proponent of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, a 95,000-square mile marine protected area. Pew was one of the biggest supporters of the Friends of the Monument.

On the policy side, Walsh and Fanger said, there are at least three questions about the true purpose and effectiveness of the Pacific MPAs.

They said the open ocean is a constantly moving and changing fluid mass, which respects no boundaries, and it is quite unclear how the creation on paper of the static Pacific MPA can possibly protect these mobile ocean waters.

"For example, what will the creation of the Pacific MPAs really do to combat global warming or prevent ocean acidification?" they asked.

Second, they said the only new constraint on human activity in the Pacific MPAs is with respect to fishing, which has not been shown to cause a serious adverse impact.

They said there is the question of adequate enforcement and research, in terms of both cost and resources, given the enormous size of the area to be protected.

"It is probably likely that much of it will not be given much attention," said the lawyers.

The total geographic area of the Pacific MPAs comprises 335,348 square miles of "emergent and submerged lands and waters," mostly made up of ocean waters surrounding island areas with either very small or no resident populations.

Prior to the creation of the Pacific MPAs in 2009, Bush created in 2006 the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument.

Fishing boat owner settles case for $500K

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The owner of a Taiwanese fishing vessel that was recently seized and escorted to the Saipan port for illegally fishing within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone surrounding the Northern Marianas Islands has settled the case with the U.S. government for $500,000.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson approved on Tuesday a consent decree that settles the forfeiture complaint filed by the U.S. government against the 22-meter long Taiwanese longline fishing vessel *Te Hung Fa.*

Wen-Te Lee owns the boat that operates out of Dunggang, Taiwan, according to court documents.

A representative of the vessel's owner and the U.S. Department of Justice signed the consent decree. Justice represented the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service Office for Law Enforcement.

Under the consent decree, the boat's owner will first pay $200,000 to an account designated by the U.S. government.

The remaining $300,000 will be paid after three years from the date of the signing of the consent decree.

Saipan Tribune learned yesterday from the U.S. Attorney's Office that the boat owner wire transferred the $200,000 to the U.S. government on Tuesday.

At the end of three years, if NOAA determines that the vessel has successfully met all requirements of the decree and that the boat and the owner demonstrate a genuine inability to pay, NOAA may forgo the amount outstanding, plus interest. If not, the $300,000 shall be due and owing. A vessel monitoring system device approved by NOAA will also be installed on the boat.

NOAA special agent Frank Giaretto stated in court papers that *Te Hung Fa* engaged in fishing operations by deploying longline gear in the U.S. EEZ surrounding the CNMI without having a valid and applicable permit.

Giaretto said the illegal fishing happened between Aug. 17 and 27, 2009. On those dates, Giaretto said, the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Washington* and a C-130 aircraft saw *Te Hung Fa* fishing in the U.S. EEZ.

He said evidence indicates that the boat's master, Lii Wen Long, 60, was aware that the vessel was located inside the EEZ and that it was illegal for them to fish inside the EEZ.

The special agent said evidence of the captain's knowledge came from radio communications and attempts to flee the U.S. Coast Guard cutter while the Coast Guard team attempted to board the boat.

Giaretto said further evidence showed that *Te Hung Fa* was likely engaged in shark finning.

On Aug. 17, Giaretto said, the C-130 aircraft witnessed *Te Hung Fa* hauling in sharks within the EEZ. On Aug. 27, he said, the Coast Guard cutter maneuvered to intercept *Te Hung Fa*, but the captain refused to obey repeated orders to stop the vessel and submit to a boarding team.

The Coast Guard found about 10 tons of sharks in the boat's holding area. Giaretto said the captain admitted to having fished for sharks but claims he did not know he was within U.S. waters.

Te Hung Fa was brought to the Saipan port on Sept. 1.

Besides the captain, who is Taiwanese, there were seven other male crew members, of Chinese and Indonesian nationalities. All were detained, but not formally arrested. With the settlement of the case, the eight were freed and the boat was released to the owner.

GRAND PRIZE WINNER

Rusty Loyola, left, operations manager of Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia) Inc., hands a new ruby-red Acer laptop to Rizally Joson, right, the grand prize winner of Coca-Cola's Red Hot Summer draw, during a brief ceremony yesterday. Coca-Cola, in conjunction with Joeten Supermarket's 60th anniversary, held raffle drawings for 12 weeks with five winners each week and a grand prize.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION (RCGC)
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 1547 ROTA, MP 96951

PURSUANT TO THE OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, DIEGO M. SONGAO HEREBY ANNOUNCES THAT THE ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION'S REGULAR MEETING FOR 18, SEPTEMBER 2009.

DATE: **Friday, 18 SEPTEMBER 2009**

TIME: **2:30 PM**

LOCATION: **Antonio Camacho Atalig Memorial Annex Building, Rota Casino Gaming Commission's Office, Tatachog, Rota, MP 96951**

AGENDA

I. **Call to Order**
II. **Roll Call**
III. **Adoption of Agenda**
IV. **Adoption of Minutes**
V. **Chairman's Report**
VI. **Old Business**
- None

VII. **New Business**
- RCGC Operation

VIII. **Miscellaneous**
IX. **Adjournment**

*At anytime during the meeting, the Commission may move to Executive Session.

/s/ Diego M. Songao **15, September 2009**
Chairman

September Specials
cool phones...incredible savings
Samsung M300
Motorola W385
Motorola KRZR
Samsung M300 CDMA CAMERA PHONE $50*
Motorola W385 CDMA CAMERA PHONE $75*
Motorola KRZR CDMA CAMERA PHONE $125**
The BEST value in Wireless
Nokia 6010 GSM DUAL-BAND $25*
Nokia 2760 GSM DUAL-BAND CAMERA PHONE $75*
NOKIA 6010
Nokia 2760
Offer valid Sept. 10th thru Sept. 30th
*Some conditions apply • 300 min More Plan or up • 1 year agreement • Single Plans only • New Accounts only
While supplies last • GSM phones not offered in Tinian and Rota
** Must sign up for Unlimited Data Plan
IT&E
Life in Motion
Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net

TO CURB UNLAWFUL REEMPLOYMENT WITH GOVT:

Fund to OPM: Turn in personnel action on new employees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund wants access to personnel action on all new employees enrolling in the defined contribution plan to monitor compliance with the rule that bars the immediate re-employment in government of those who have taken out their Fund contributions.

This came about after the Fund uncovered many cases of individuals being employed back in government after resigning and taking out their contributions from the Fund. The law requires at least six months' separation from government service.

In a letter to acting Office of Personnel Management director Isidro Seman, Fund administrator Mark Aguon said the Fund intends to monitor compliance with the law and to recoup any money that may have been disbursed already.

However, in order to do so, the Fund needs OPM to provide it copies of the notification of personnel action of all new employees enrolling in the DC plan.

Aguon said the Fund recently completed review of re-employment practices of members of the defined benefit plan who resign from their positions simply to withdraw their contributions and then are reinstated to their original position under the DC plan.

"Most of these employees are re-employed less than the six-month waiting period and have not repaid the amount of the contributions that they withdrew from the Fund, as required by [law]," Aguon told Seman.

Aguon

The administrator said the controversy over the continued applicability of the six-month employment restriction stems from a misinterpretation of Public Law 15-98, which only amended 1 CMC 8356.

"While the law currently does not prevent active Class 1 members from withdrawing their contributions before completing 15 years of contributing member service, 1 CMC 8356 restrict members, regardless of class membership, from returning to government employment for a period of six months after receiving a refund of his or her employee contributions, unless the member returns the full amount of the refund to the Fund within six months of receiving the refund," Aguon explained.

He said the Fund has taken the position that the six-month restriction, as amended, applies to those employees who became members or otherwise employed by the government after Dec. 5, 2003.

Recently, the Fund board of trustees adopted a rate period of 90 days to pay for the refunds. It also stopped refund payments since Sept 1.

As of July 2009, the Fund disclosed that there were 59 individuals from the approved refund claimants who were re-employed back to the government and were entered into the defined contribution plan. Five of them were re-enrolled in the DC plan less than six months after withdrawing their contributions.

Aguon said a significant figure can be recouped by the Fund from these individuals who violated the law.

The Fund received a total of 939 applications from FY 2007 through May 2009, all intending to withdraw their contributions from the retirement program.

Jury selection begins in trial of ex-Rotary chief

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court began yesterday the selection of jurors who will decide whether former Saipan Rotary Club president Patrick Mendiola Calvo is guilty or not of charges that he sexually abused a girl.

Calvo

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja began the jury selection among a set of prospective jurors yesterday morning and continued it for today, Thursday, at 2pm. Selection for the second panel of prospective jurors will start today, Thursday, at 1pm.

The jury selections were originally set for Monday and Tuesday, but were postponed due to Super Typhoon Choi-Wan.

Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher is prosecuting the case. Veteran defense attorney G. Anthony Long is defending Calvo.

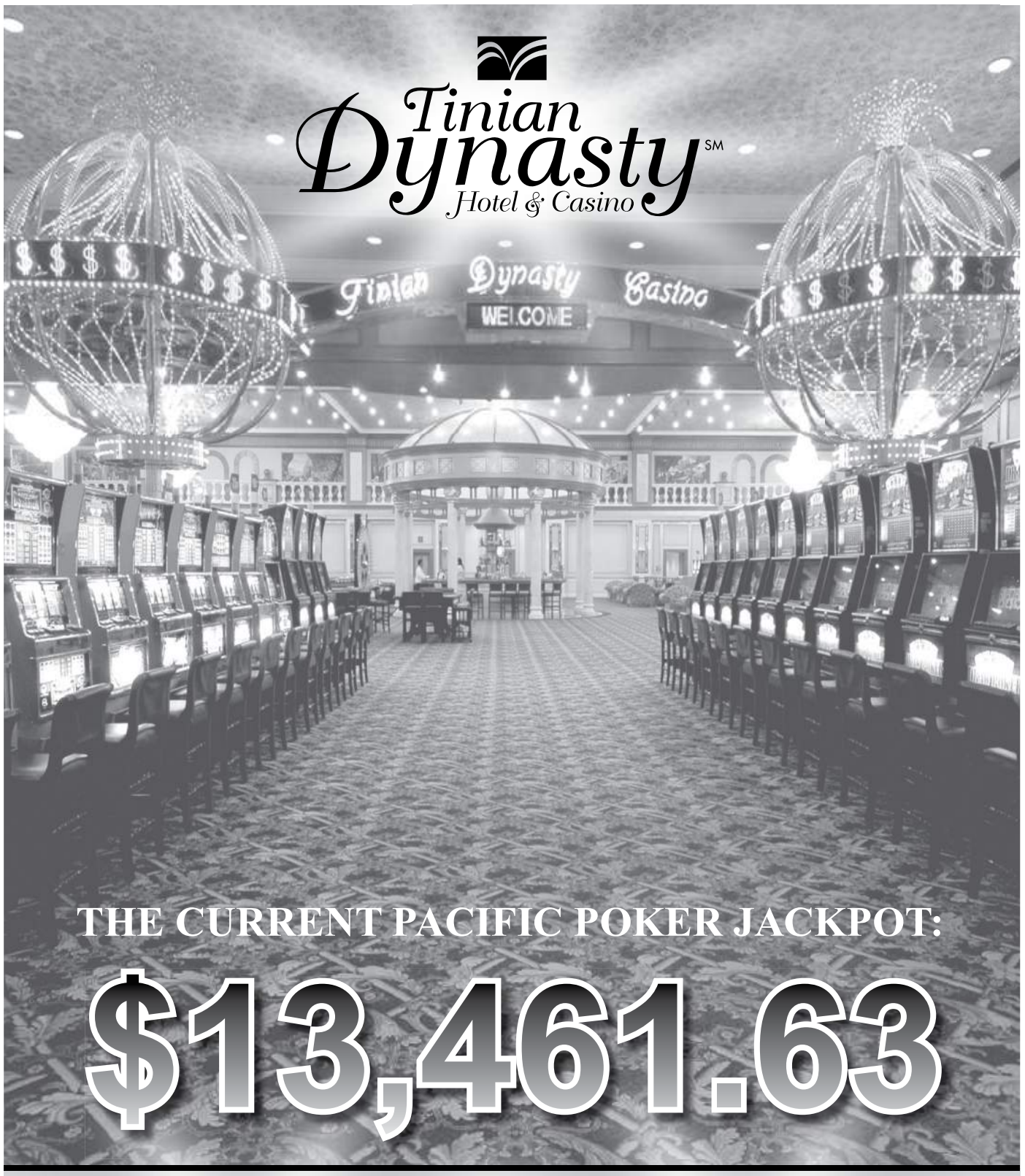
The Office of the Attorney General had charged Calvo with sexual assault in the second degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree, and disturbing the peace.

The prosecution alleged that Calvo sexually assaulted a then 13-year-old girl on June 11, 2008.

Calvo pleaded not guilty.

In June 2008, Calvo, as then Saipan Rotary Club president, said he would run for a U.S. Congress seat as an independent candidate. A few days after his declaration, police arrested him for the sexual abuse case.

In 2000, the OAG filed two criminal cases against Calvo for allegedly sexually abusing two female minors in 1997 and 1998. The cases dragged on for years in local courts before being eventually dismissed.



MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Friday, September 18, 2009 beginning at 9:00 AM at the MPLT Conference Room, Suite # 107, Morgen Building; Saipan, MP.

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

11 CONSULTANT'S REPORTS
- Legal Counsel Reports
  - Home Loan Program: Auction Review & Approval
- Investment Consultant Reports
- Loan Administrator Reports
- Board Consultant Reports
  - Financial Statements - JULY 2009

III OLD BUSINESS
- GF Distribution Issues
- Office Space Matters - Building Construction
- Administrative Manual - Personnel Benefits

IV NEW BUSINESS
- Request for Proposal (ETI) Review & Approval
- Asset Allocation Criteria Review & Approval
- 5th Micronesia Real Estate Conference

V EXECUTIVE SESSION
At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

VI MISCELLANEOUS

VII ADJOURNMENT

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may beadded to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority ofthe trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attendand to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Phillip Mendiola-Long, AIF
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Palms Resort, Xanadu tie up for vacation time share

United Micronesia Development Association, owners of the Palms Resort Saipan, said yesterday it has entered into an agreement with Xanadu Club, a China-based high profile travel and time share enterprise, to provide vacation rooms for its members.

According to Russ Snow, UMDA president & CEO, "31 of Palms Resort's rooms have been blocked permanently for exclusive use by the Xanadu Club."

"The Palms is committed to promoting and sustaining tourism in the CNMI," added Mustafa Issa, general manager of the Palms Resort Saipan. "The Xanadu Club room rental agreement for vacation time share is an integral part of our marketing diversification. We are currently in related discussions, utilizing this concept, with other tour companies in Japan and Korea, as well."

"An important focus of our marketing strategy is to create strong partnerships with our established tour operators," said Issa. "The response and support from our tour operators has been overwhelming, and in response, the Palms is in the process of implementing a comprehensive renovation effort to upgrade room accommodations, food & beverage facilities, and a wide range of optional tours and attractions."

"We have also reaffirmed our commitment to our local customers by creating fantastic food & beverage promotions exclusively to support the needs of our local market," Issa said. "I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all of our clients on Saipan for their support, and promise to introduce new and exciting promotions and events as we strive to continually surprise and delight you."

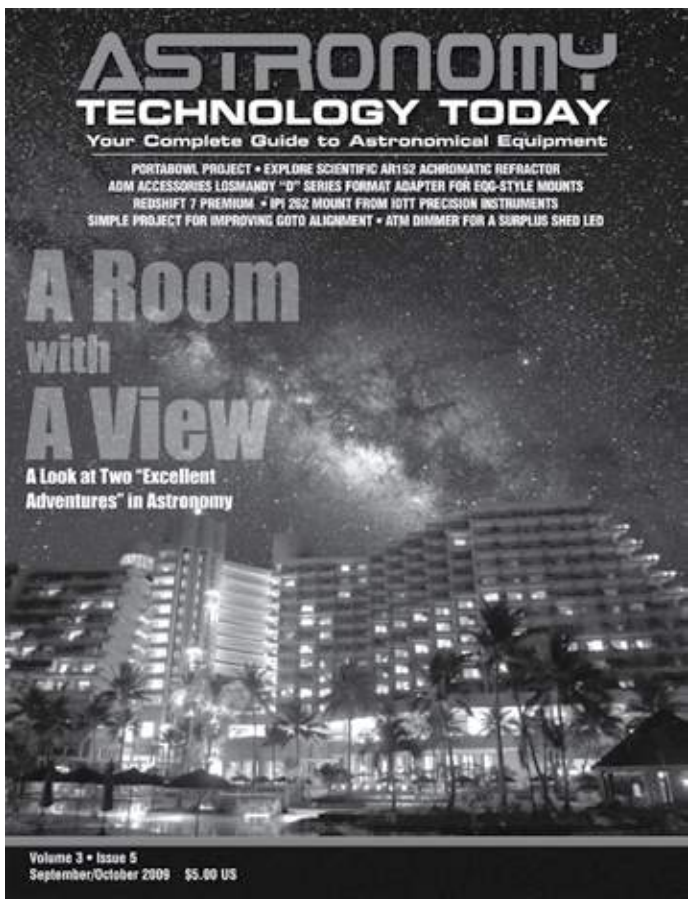
The Palms Resort Saipan is located on PauPau Beach with 313 oceanfront rooms, all of which enjoy a panoramic view from Banzai Cliff to Garapan. The Palms offers three first-class restaurants: the Fresko Café, Minami Japanese Restaurant, and the Kaenju Teppanyaki Restaurant, plus a nightly Sunset BBQ featuring live island music and dance show. All hotel guests and restaurant customers can also attend the nightly astronomy presentations and enjoy free use of the Palms' powerful telescopes.

The sports & recreational facilities at the Palms include a large swimming and diving pools, five tennis courts, three racquetball courts, and a state-of-the-art fitness center which houses the only Pilates studio in the CNMI.

For more information or to make a reservation, contact Cristina Lustre at 237-5341, or visit their web site at www.palmsresortsaipancnmi.com. ***(PR)***

CONTACT INFO

Cristina Lustre: 237-5341
Web site: www.palmsresortsaipancnmi.com


ASTRONOMY
TECHNOLOGY TODAY
Your Complete Guide to Astronomical Equipment
PORTABOWL PROJECT • EXPLORE SCIENTIFIC AR152 ACHROMATIC REFRACTOR
ADM ACCESSORIES LOSMANDY "D" SERIES FORMAT ADAPTER FOR EQG-STYLE MOUNTS
REDSHIFT 7 PREMIUM • IPI 282 MOUNT FROM IOTT PRECISION INSTRUMENTS
SIMPLE PROJECT FOR IMPROVING GOTO ALIGNMENT • ATM DIMMER FOR A SURPLUS SHED LED
A Room with A View
A Look at Two "Excellent Adventures" in Astronomy
Volume 3 • Issue 5
September/October 2009 $5.00 US

COVER STORY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Palms Resort Saipan has landed on the latest cover of the magazine *Astronomy Technology Today*, together with a feature story inside detailing the resort's new astronomical observatory attraction. Titled "A Room With a View," the article is written by Shawn Hendrix, who was hired by Palms Resort to help set up the telescopes and other equipment. According to Hendrix, "There is one word no matter if they were from China, Japan, or Korea that was uttered when looking at Orion's Nebula for the first time…WOW! We had many people tell us that they had never looked through a telescope and wanted to come back the next night and learn more." For more information, visit www.palmsobservatorysaipan.com.

WSR to lead the Pinwheels for Peace project in CNMI

In today's world, peace needs to become more than just a word. On Sept. 21, 2009, William S. Reyes Elementary School plans to take part in an International art and literacy project, Pinwheels for Peace," by "planting" pinwheels with messages of peace at the WSR campus.

Pinwheels for Peace is an art installation project started in 2005 by two art teachers, Ann Ayers and El McMillan, of Coconut Creek, Florida, as a way for students to express their feelings about what's going on in world and their lives. In the first year, groups in over 1,325 locations throughout the world were spinning pinwheels on Sept. 21—there were approximately 500,000 pinwheels spinning throughout the world. Last year (year 4), over 2.3 million pinwheels were spinning in over 3,000 locations, including the United States, Europe, Asia, Australia, Canada, the Middle East, Africa and the South America.

Locally, WSR Elementary School will be coordinating the Pinwheels for Peace project this year.

This project is non-political. Peace doesn't necessarily have to be associated with the conflict of war; it can be related to violence/intolerance in our daily lives, to peace of mind. To each of us, peace can take a different meaning, but, in the end, it all comes down to a simple definition: "a state of calm and serenity with no anxiety, the absences of violence, freedom from conflict or disagreement among people or group of people."

WSR Elementary School students will create pinwheels of all shapes and sizes. As part of the creation process, the students will write their thoughts about "war and peace, tolerance, living in harmony with others" on one side and on the other side, they will draw, paint, collage, etc. to visualize and express their feelings. The students will "plant" their pinwheels on the ground on International Day of Peace as a public statement and art exhibit.

On Sept. 21, 2009, keep a lookout for the pinwheels. The spinning of the pinwheels in the wind will spread thoughts and feelings about peace throughout the islands and the world! ***(PR)***

The Tinian Covenant Party officials and committee members would like to assure party members, supporters and the general public that the party remain strong and is committed to working hard and moving forward towards winning this election despite the resignation of it s Chairman, Jose Cruz. We are putting the resignation of the chairman behind us and are committed to working together towards a successful campaign ahead.

The resignation of the chairman is not a setback for the party and the next in line has stepped up to fill the void left by Jose Cruz. As a matter of fact, the family of the ex-chairman, shown above, is a testimony of their strong commitment to the party. Of course they are saddened by the defection of Joe but the decision by the ex-chairman to leave is his decision alone and not a family decision.

The Mayor on the other hand, continues to do the work of the people and had also put this misunderstanding behind while working hard to winning a second term in office. The people of Tinian will decide whether or not the progress that has been accomplished thus far warrants returning the Mayor for another term.

During the last three and half years this administration has done a lot of improvement despite of the shortfall in resources and is very proud to be part of moving Tinian forward as a strong and vibrant community. We ask our community for their support and vote of confidence as we continue to work hard for our future.

Covenant Party
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Paid for by The Committee to Re-elect Jose P. San Nicolas & all Covenant Candidates

FCC OKs assignment of KRNM licenses

The Federal Communications Commission recently approved the Northern Marianas College's application to assign its KRNM licenses to Guam-based Marianas Educational Media Services, which has offered to continue public radio format broadcasting in the CNMI.

The college had submitted its complete application to the FCC last July, after extensively reviewing it to ensure compliance with all applicable FCC requirements. Among other requirements, the college was asked to publicly announce its intent to reassign KRNM's license for notification purposes and public comment back in July.

NMC will now be able to transfer KRNM's 88.1 FM and 89.1 FM licenses to MEMS.

Since the college stopped subsidizing KRNM operations to focus its resources on its core academic programs, public radio services continued to be broadcasted through an agreement with KPRG, a non-profit radio station on Guam.

KPRG regularly airs "BBC World Service," and programs from National Public Radio and Public Radio International, which feature programs such as "All Things Considered," "World Café," "Fresh Air," "Blue Monday Micronesia," and other radio shows.

"We would like to thank the listening community for their continued support, especially those who contributed financial resources to KRNM," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "Those generous donations went a long way in diversifying the type and content of radio programming available to listeners in the CNMI."

Programs aired by the Marianas Education Media Services will also include educational programs, cultural features, and national news from news organizations like National Public Radio.

"We are pleased that MEMS has agreed to continue to broadcast the great educational and cultural programs that CNMI listeners have enjoyed all these years," added Fernandez.

KRNM was originally established with federal funds in 1998 when the FCC granted the college a license to broadcast non-commercial public radio programming. The radio station set out to become self-sustaining with external funding. The goal was never reached, however; and, for the past 10 years, KRNM was heavily subsidized by NMC.

The NMC Board of Regents voted in a September 2008 meeting to support the assignment of KRNM licenses to a nonprofit, educational entity. ***(NMC)***

CACP scholarship deadline extended to Friday

The College Access Challenge Project is currently accepting applications for its CACP 2009-2010 Scholarship Program, which awards up to $1,500 per semester to high school juniors, seniors, and first-year college students with low-income backgrounds.

CONTACT INFO

Leo Pangelinan
Tel: 234-5498 Ext. 1322
E-mail: leop@nmcnet.edu

ON THE NET

www.nmcnet.edu

The purpose of the scholarship is to assist recipients with the costs associated with college enrollment. To be eligible for the scholarship, students must:

- Be a high school junior, senior, or a first-year college student (having no more than 30 credits).
- Be a citizen or permanent resident of the U.S., which includes citizens of the U.S. Freely Associated States of Micronesia.
- Demonstrate eligibility for high school's Free Meal or Reduced Meal Program, federal PELL grant or provide other proof of low-income status per federal guidelines in the CNMI.
- Be a participant in the College Access Challenge Project.
- Be admitted to and enrolled as a student at the Northern Marianas College.

Application forms, along with supporting documentation, for the CACP scholarship must be submitted no later than 5pm on Sept. 18, 2009 to the NMC Counseling Programs and Services office in Building I. To download a copy of the application form and scholarship requirements, log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

For more information, contact CACP program manager Leo Pangelinan at 234-5498 ext. 1322 or at leop@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Notice to all candidates for political office

The Office of the Public Auditor will be conducting presentations on campaign finance and reporting on the islands of Rota, Saipan, and Tinian. The dates and times for each of the presentations are as follows:

- Tinian: Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009, 1pm to 3pm, Northern Marianas College-Tinian Instructional Site, Room D
- Rota: Friday, Sept. 25, 2009, 5:30pm to 7:30pm, Northern Marianas College-Rota Instructional Site, Building B - Room B2
- Saipan: Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009, 5:30pm to 7:30pm, Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe.

Given the statutory restrictions relating to campaign spending and reporting, all candidates and their treasurers are strongly urged to attend. For more information, call OPA at 322-6481/2. ***(OPA)***

Radio talk show to highlight Covenant

Marianas Agupa, a Chamorro talk show program hosted by Glenn H. Manglona, will feature Vicente N. Santos, vice chairman of the Northern Marianas Political Status Commission, who will be discussing key issues of the Covenant that led to the political union with the United States, on Sept, 19, 2009, Saturday, from 9am to 11am, on Magic 100.3 FM, with simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com. For more information, contact marianasagupa@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Census 2010 JVAs extended

In order to allow potential applicants more time to submit applications for the 16 census 2010 positions opening up on October 1, 2009, the Department of Commerce has requested that the Office of Personnel Management extend the deadline for submissions, from the original date of Sept. 5, to the new deadline of Sept. 11, 2009. All potential applicants are encouraged to submit their applications to OPM and direct all pertinent questions regarding the positions to that office. ***(PR)***

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETINGS

National Historic Preservation Act meetings to support the proposed U.S. Marine Corps Relocation Project will be held to involve the public in the identification and possible treatments of historic properties on Tinian. The first meeting will be held at Tinian Elementary School on Tuesday September 22, 2009 starting at 8:00PM. A second public meeting on this subject will be held on Saipan at the Coastal Resources Management conference room on Wednesday September 23, 2009 starting at 8:00PM. For those who can't attend, we welcome your written comments sent to:

Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific
Environmental Planning (Code EV23)
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

Fitial, Legislature to proclaim ESGR Week

On Wednesday, Sept. 23, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will proclaim Sept. 20-26, 2009 as Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, or ESGR, Week in the CNMI.

The proclamation signing will take place at 10am at the Governor's Office on Capital Hill in front of servicemembers, who have left and continue to leave their jobs when called to serve the islands and nation.

Also present will be employers who also make the sacrifice when their employees are away on military service.

"The proclamation is a reminder that men and women continue to put their lives on the line to honorably defend the nation' freedom. The sacrifice is shared by the entire community, especially families and employers and we need to recognize and appreciate their support," according to an ESGR statement.

Following the proclamation will be a joint resolution by the CNMI Legislature in their chambers.

ESGR is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972. Its mission is to gain and maintain employer support of Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding employer support, increasing awareness of the law and resolving conflicts through mediation.

For more information on this proclamation or any ESGR Program, contact Capt. Josephine Blas, Public Affairs director for the ESGR Guam-CNMI Committee at 671-735-0456, or Rose Igitol, CNMI Area chair, at 670-287-1129. ***(ESGR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 17, 1999

Visitor arrivals slightly up in August

Visitor arrivals for the month of August totaled 44,157, or a 2.4 percent increase compared to the month of August 1998, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority. Overall, there was a marginal decline in arrivals from CNMI's major markets as Japan recorded a 1 percent drop in August 1999 despite the chartered flights delivered by Japan Airlines. This slight drop was attributed to the summer holiday season celebrated during the months of July and August. With the scheduled use of a B747 by Northwest Airlines next month, tourism officials expect arrivals from Japan to improve. At the same time, JAL's 50 percent reduction of airfare in October, November and December this year is expected to boost the sagging tourism economy.

MVA pushes TV ad campaign

In a move to reach a wider market, the Marianas Visitors Authority will still push through with a television advertisement of the CNMI in selected cities in Japan. Due to limited budget, the tourism office has chosen the cities of Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya and Fukuoka for the showing of a television commercial, according to MVA Managing Director Perry Tenorio. The MVA board has approved a $2.1 million budget for Fiscal 2000 for Dentsu 10, a Tokyo-based advertising company the tourism office has tapped to promote the Northern Marianas. Originally, MVA wanted to carry out the television advertisement in October but the delay in the approval of the local government's budget for the next fiscal year has forced the tourism office to reschedule it in January.

Sept. 17, 2001

US troops told to prepare for war

President Bush ordered U.S. troops to get ready for war and braced Americans for a long, difficult assault against terrorists to avenge the deadliest attack on the nation. "Those who make war against the United States have chosen their own destruction," he declared Saturday. "We will smoke them out of their holes," Bush said. "We'll get them running and we'll bring them to justice." But first the nation had to mourn and bury its dead. "This is indeed a sad occasion, one to be repeated thousands of times by our fellow citizens across the country," Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas said at the memorial service for Barbara Olson, wife of U.S. Solicitor General Theodore Olson.

Torres, Fund may reach settlement

The camp of former Retirement Fund Administrator Juan S. Torres is confident that a settlement may be reached with the Board once it convenes on Wednesday to iron out differences. Torres, through his counsel Michael W. Dotts, said the Board is open to possible settlement after the former administrator questioned his removal from office in court. "The Board is open to work this out." Dotts made the statement in behalf of his client despite a court order that expressly stated that Torres' request for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction has been denied.

Sept. 17, 2002

Bill eyes to increase deposit safeguards

Learning from the bitter lessons brought about by the Bank of Saipan debacle, a Saipan lawmaker has drafted an amendment that proposes to establish safeguards for public funds deposited in private banks, amid fears of the government losing $16 million resulting from the BoS financial ruin. Rep. William S. Torres, the measure's proponent, believes that pledging a bank's assets at 120 percent of the government's deposits is the way to protect public monies against unwarranted risks.

Initial meeting for 702 talks set

With the fiscal year drawing to a close this month, initial meetings for the upcoming Covenant 702 negotiations between the federal and Commonwealth governments will kick off on Sept. 30, with both governments evaluating the need to hammer out a new agreement. Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente said he would fly to Los Angeles to meet with Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary David Cohen so they could agree that there will be Covenant 702 negotiations next month. "I have just received a letter today [yesterday] from Mr. Cohen, who has set our first meeting on the 30th of this month. So, when I return from Japan, I will have about a week here then I will have to travel to Los Angeles to sit down for our first official meeting, which is required by law," said Benavente.

JOETEN 60th ANNIVERSARY

Joeten's Best Buys of the Week!

September 17 thru 23

DEPARTMENT STORE

Gym Yoga Set
$32.99

Digital Jump Rope
$9.79

Ergo Push Up Bar
$12.99

Yoga Mat 173x61 cm
$7.99

SUSUPE SHOPPING CENTER
TEL.: 234-6446
THRU SAT. 8:00A.M. - 9:00P.M. / SUN. 8:00A.M. - 7:00P.M.

DANDAN SUPERMARKET
TEL.: 235-6016
MON. THRU SAT. 8:00A.M. - 9:00P.M.

HAFA-ADAI SHOPPING CENTER
TEL.: 234-7596
MON. THRU SUN. 8:00A.M. - 11:00P.M.

KAGMAN MARKET
TEL.: 256-6441
MON. THRU SAT. 8:00A.M. - 10:00P.M.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Small pain, real gain

With the federal deficit headed toward $1.5 trillion both this year and next, the Obama administration is under pressure to produce a plan for fiscal stability. Some of that pressure has come from editorial pages, including this one, so we thought it was only fair that we offer a few specific ideas of our own.

Obviously the big dollars are in defense and Medicare, Social Security and other entitlements, as well as the monumentally inefficient tax code. A true fix to the country's structural fiscal problem must await their comprehensive overhaul. But the point here is to show how much Congress and the administration could accomplish even without taking on those huge political battles. In fact, with the help of the Congressional Budget Office's recently released annual budget options report, we've identified $100 billion in savings over the next five years. They could be achieved without imposing sacrifices on the needy, reducing middle-class living standards below recent norms—or even touching farm subsidies.

Much of the savings in our proposal would come from adopting a more accurate measure of inflation for annual adjustments in both taxes and spending. Currently, income tax brackets, exemptions, standard deductions and the like are indexed to keep up with the Consumer Price Index for urban consumers, which is based on buying pattern surveys that can be up to two years out of date. The government should instead use a slightly different, but more realistic version of the index, which reflects the fact that people maintain their standard of living by substituting cheaper products when prices rise. Use of this infelicitiously titled "chained CPI" in the tax code would save $22 billion over the next five years, according to the CBO. Adopting the chained CPI for all federal benefit programs that are indexed to inflation would save another $20 billion — merely by slowing the growth of future benefits slightly, not actually cutting them or taking away any that have already been awarded.

No editorial would be complete without a pitch for the federal gas tax, but let's keep it modest this time: Simply restore the gas tax, currently 18.4 cents per gallon, to its real value when enacted in 1993. The necessary increase, nine cents per gallon, would still leave gas prices lower than they were a year ago—while cutting the deficit by about $45 billion over the next half-decade. If this rankles, remember: Because the tax discourages petroleum consumption, it will make it harder for oil producers to jack up the world price of oil. Hugo Chavez and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad would be getting hit, too.

Thirteen billion dollars to go: Let's consolidate three existing tax credits and deductions for higher education expenses into a single credit program ($6.6 billion), eliminate school-lunch subsidies for non-poor children ($1.2 billion) and phase out capital grants to big airports ($5 billion). For the last $200 million, get rid of just one of Amtrak's five most unprofitable routes.

There. Now, was that so hard?

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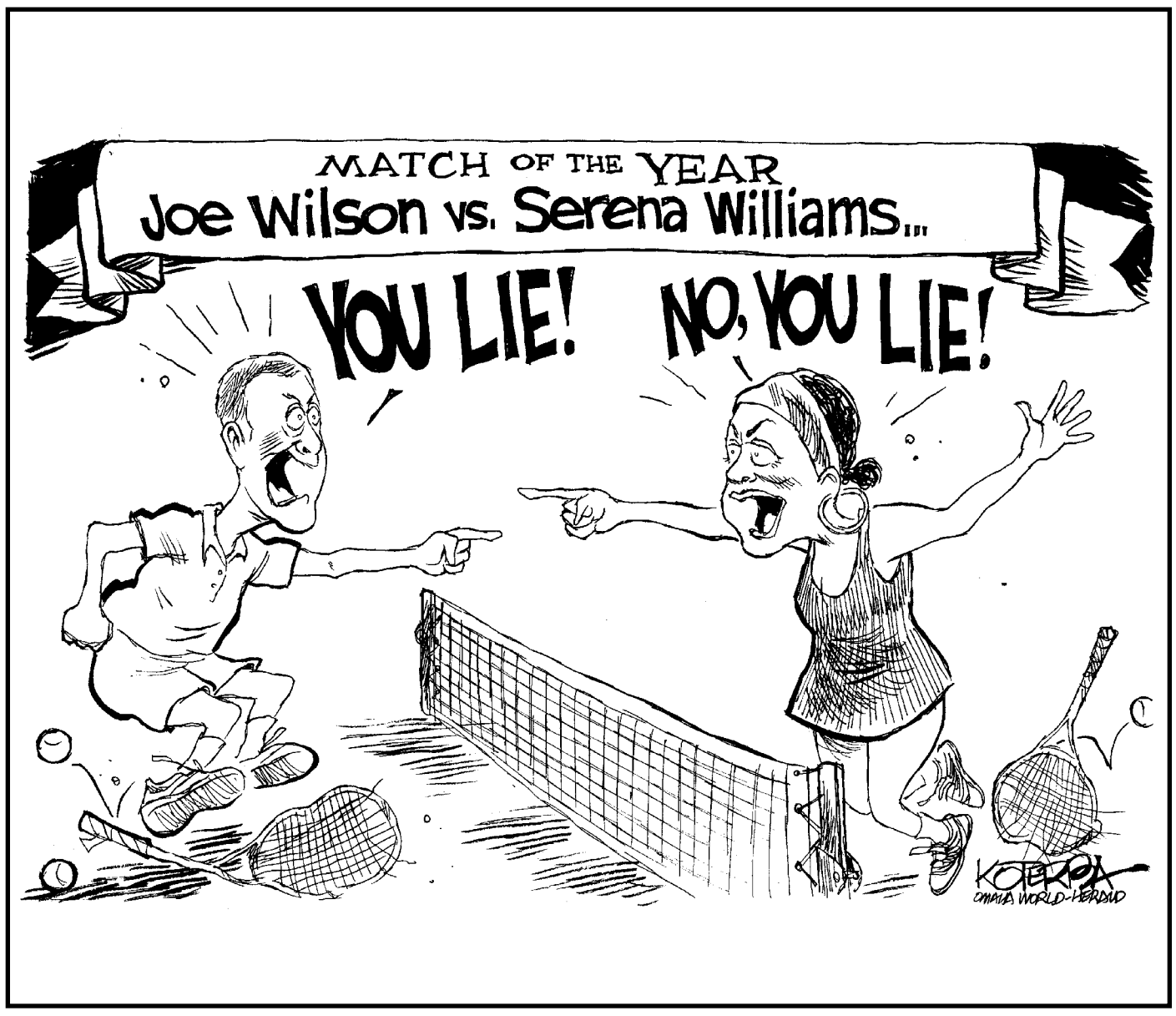

Immigration awaits its turn

By LEE HOCKSTADER
(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Lee Hockstader is a writer for The Washington Post *editorial page.*

WASHINGTON—The chances of building a sane immigration system seemed unlikely enough in 2007 before they were squashed by divisions among Democrats and a talk radio-fueled revolt on the right. If anything, they look even worse now, given the competing debates over health care and energy, a jobless rate edging toward 10 percent, and a plateau or decline in the number of illegal immigrants in the country.

All that seems to have sapped the immigration debate of its urgency, while leaving intact its potential to enrage conservatives—as we were reminded by Rep. Joe Wilson's dyspeptic outburst and the subsequent chorus of "You go, Joe" from his constituents in South Carolina.

But Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., is drafting legislation to overhaul immigration, and President Obama says he intends to make a fresh push on the issue next year. That may not be as crazy as it sounds.

It's not that the anemic U.S. economy is going to take the problem off the politicians' hands. Despite high unemployment and sluggish growth here, the Mexican economy is in far worse straits: It is expected to shrink by 7 percent this year, much more than the U.S. economy, and both the tourism and oil industries—mainstays of Mexico's economy—are in bad shape. The main factors that have prompted millions of Mexicans to leave home for decades are going strong.

But the recession, coupled with tougher enforcement, has slowed the flow of Mexicans, by far the largest chunk of undocumented immigrants, who cross into this country. And—depending on which numbers you believe—it may also have prompted those already here to go home in greater numbers. The total number of illegal immigrants in the country has either leveled off at around 11 million or 12 million or declined somewhat.

That's one reason the politics may have shifted. Another is that the immigration issue, despite being red meat for some conservatives, has mostly been an electoral bust for the right. In 20 of 22 competitive House and Senate races last November, the candidates favoring broader immigration reform—generally Democrats—defeated their harder-line opponents, according to an analysis by America's Voice, a pro-reform group.

Those results, which followed similar outcomes in the 2006 congressional elections, should give centrist and swing-state Democrats some assurance that a vote for a sensible immigration policy is not a career-ender.

The Obama administration has also been smart to expand the E-Verify system, which forces employers to confirm that new hires are authorized to work here, and to press ahead with the federal program to deputize local police to help deport unauthorized immigrants. Those steps provide a basis for the president and fence-sitters in his own party to argue that the administration has been serious about enforcing existing law.

Some moderate Republicans will also have noticed the mounting long-term folly of continuing to oppose issues that matter to Hispanic voters, the single fastest-growing segment of the electorate. That constituency, which was critical in helping Democrats win four swing states in 2008—Florida, New Mexico, Nevada and Colorado—has grim memories of the immigrant-bashing rhetoric of state and local Republicans. And it has been badly hurt by a recession that took hold during the Bush administration: Income for Hispanic households fell by 5.6 percent in 2008 compared with the previous year, a rate of decline twice that of African-Americans.

If Republicans hope to reverse what could be a generational shift of Hispanic voters to the Democrats, they won't get there by bashing whatever immigration reform legislation emerges in the Senate. Moderates, at least, will have to rebrand themselves, and immigration reform is a perfect opportunity.

There is room for reframing and repackaging the immigration debate so that it does not become a replay of the Bush administration's failed attempts of 2006 and 2007. But to be successful in reshaping the country's dysfunctional system, any legislation needs to recognize economic realities: that millions of immigrant workers are here to stay; that many or most do jobs that native-born Americans don't want; and that Mexico's comparative poverty will continue to drive immigrants north to a better life.

Recession or no recession, a comprehensive reform bill must provide a way out of this mess born of neglect by offering a path to legality for undocumented immigrants already here and a mechanism for future workers, skilled and unskilled, to enter the country in adequate numbers to meet the job market's demands.

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Speed it up

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC. They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

I was rereading a book recently and found some cards in it that had the reading rates of people we taught in 1991. When we lived in Texas, we worked with several individuals in a business project that required us to do a lot of reading. I'd taken a speed reading class in college so we invited them over to our house for an evening to learn some techniques that would help boost their reading rates. We continued the lessons once a week for the next four weeks and the results were startling.

The average person reads at between 150 to 300 words per minute (wpm), and only 1 percent of Americans can read faster than 400 wpm. The reading rates of the nine individuals we instructed ranged from 100 to 350 wpm when we began, and by the time we finished all of them more than doubled their reading rate. All but one read faster than 400 wpm. The person who read at 100 wpm finished at 810 wpm, and a couple of them were reading over 1,000 wpm.

Reading is a critical skill to master in order to learn practically any other skill. Yet, the vast majority of people don't progress beyond the third-grade level of reading. The problem with reading so slow is that your mind can think at over 600 words per minute so it's like driving 30 mph on a highway that allows you to drive at 60 mph. After a few minutes, you get bored, start to think about other things and eventually wonder what you just read. The solution is to speed it up so that you can learn as fast as your brain can process the information.

There are four reasons why people read slower than their full potential: lack of purpose, regression, hard focus, and subvocalization. These four reading "speed bumps" are the reason most people do not like to read. They are ingrained habits that you've developed over many years and it may take a few weeks to overcome them so you can develop new habits.

1. Lack of Purpose. Think about the last time you read a book. Did you understand what you were going to read before you started reading? Most people just start at page one and begin to plow through the information without a clear understanding of what they might get out of the material. They also tend to read at one pace – which is very slow.

To overcome this hindrance you should preview a book by reading the back page, inside flaps, table of contents, information about the author, and then quickly flip through the book to give you a general overview. From this preview you'll get some understanding about the topic and start to formulate some questions to answer as you read the book. Having a purpose before you read can make the reading process more interesting and enjoyable.

2. Regression. Here's an interesting exercise you can do with someone else. Have the other person imagine a three-foot circle about three feet in front of them and tell them to follow the imaginary circle with only their eyes. As you watch, you'll see that their eyes progress in jagged, zigzag movements that are unnoticeable to the other person. Now sit in front of them and tell them to follow your finger as you draw the three-foot circle in front of them. As you watch their eyes, you'll notice that they move in a smooth, deliberate manner.

Our eyes are constantly fixating and jerking around on a page, and if you read slowly, they will often jump back a few words or lines, so that you are rereading the text. This is like stopping and starting in your vehicle, and occasionally putting it in reverse.

The solution is to use your hand as a pacer. You were probably told to not use your finger to read in grade school and I'm now telling you to use it again, but this time to guide your eyes across and down a page to avoid regressing backwards. Just using this one technique will cause you to increase your reading rate by at least 50 percent.

3. Hard focus. This means you focus on one or two words as you move along a line of text. When you apply soft focus, you can see three to four words at a time, and you've more than doubled your reading speed if you use a pacing hand to keep you moving forward. Individuals who read at over 1,000 words per minute are able to see a whole line of text in one or two fixations. As your peripheral vision allows you to take in larger blocks of words, you'll be able to understand several lines or paragraphs at one fixation.

4. Subvocalization. This is the process of saying the words you read in your mind, and it is the most difficult habit to overcome. Instead of trying to eliminate it, learn to work with it by summarizing the material and only saying key words. There are people who can speak at over 1,000 wpm, so it is possible to subvocalize at a much faster speed and see a dramatic increase in your reading rate.

Being able to overcome most or all of these speed bumps in reading will allow you to increase your reading rate by 50 to 200 percent or more, and have greater comprehension as you cruise on the information highway. When you speed it up, you'll find that you enjoy reading much more, and get more out of the information.

The tea party vs the polls

By EZRA KLEIN
(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Klein, former associate editor at the American Prospect, *reports on domestic and economic policy for The Washington Post. He blogs at WashingtonPost.com/ezraklein.*

Remember when the Iraq war protests stopped the Iraq war?

Yeah. Me, neither. Nor, for that matter, does Fox News, nor Rush Limbaugh, which leaves me a bit confused by their joyous reaction to the Tea Party that took place in Washington on Sunday. Estimates peg it somewhere between 30,000 and 50,000 people, which makes it an admirable bit of organizing, but not a contender for the protest hall of fame. What it seems, rather, is the progression of a broader societal trend: The advent of online organizing is making it easier to connect large numbers of like-minded people and ask them to attend a rally. It's done that for politicians like Barack Obama, protesters of all sorts and stripes, and even flash mobs.

More interesting, I'd say, is the poll *The Washington Post* released Monday. The country is split on Obama's handling of health-care reform: 48 percent approve and 48 percent disapprove. When asked about the reform effort itself, 46 percent approve and 48 percent disapprove.

And that's before the polling gets weird. On the two most contentious questions in the health-care reform debate—the public option and the role of the Republican Party—the American people get downright incoherent.

Let's start with the public option. A solid 55 percent of the country supports "having the government create a new health insurance plan to compete with private health insurance plans." That supports jumps to 76 percent if the option is reserved for those unable to get health insurance now. But for all that, when asked if they would favor health-care reform if the government option was dropped from the package, support jumps to 50 percent. In other words, the America people strongly favor the public option, but prefer health-care reform without it.

Or take Republicans. Asked whether the Democrats should change health-care reform to attract Republican support, 71 percent support the effort to reach across the aisle. But asked whether Republicans are "making a good faith effort to cooperate with Obama and the Democrats on health care reform," 62 percent say they're not. And when asked whether Obama and the Democrats are making a good-faith effort to reach out to the Republicans, 50 percent say they are. To sum up, Americans believe the Democrats should rewrite the bill to attract the support of Republicans, even as they believe Republicans have not been negotiating in good faith, and Democrats have been.

What you saw at the Tea Party this weekend was a lot of certainty about health-care reform. "No" polled at 100 percent. The American people, however, evince no such clarity. They're confused about health-care reform, and particularly about the process. They'd be comforted by some level of consensus in Washington, even though they realize one party desires nothing of the sort. I imagine that it would be hard for a congressman to know exactly what to think of these numbers.

But perhaps the most important poll result for our perplexed legislator came toward the end of the survey. The poll asked whether people would be more or less likely to vote for a congressional candidate who supported health-care reform. Here too, the crowd was ambivalent. But more than ambivalent, they were uninterested. About 22 percent would be more likely to vote for the congressman. About 23 percent would be less likely. And 54 percent said it would make no difference to them at all.

That, at least, is a majority opinion.

Letters to the Editor

The 'Bullet Magnet'

It has been about four years since I last saw my cousin Brandon. We were hanging out with cousin Herbert and two friends at the dock across Kristo Rai church and were talking about the war. He never mentioned to me the danger he was in during the war. He said he is amazed using heavy artillery on buildings could be so cool. I was amazed myself, listening to his war duties. Now this individual dubbed the "Bullet Magnet" is making waves in the armed forces, earning his fifth Purple Heart for being shot again. Escaping death five times is not a game to play, I thought to myself.

We take freedom for granted and do not think fully that our beloved troops make the ultimate sacrifices to give us that freedom. Some make it home; others become casualties of war. Once in a while we must all close our eyes and say "thank you" for the continuance of freedom that these dedicated soldiers give us. Let us remember that our troops are in danger every second wherever they are. I am forever indebted to them. It is soldiers like cousin Brandon that make the CNMI a safe home for all of us. I wish him full recovery for his recent injury. All I know is he is still fighting until he finishes his duty. May God bless cousin Brandon

Vince G. Cabrera
Chalan Piao, Saipan

Joint resolutions?

Why is it that majority of our incumbent elected leaders who have been in office for almost two decades continue their cries for further delays in the implementation of Public Law 110-229? If they only did their jobs almost two decades ago and adhered to all the warnings sent them by the Department of the Interior, three presidents, and countless members of Congress, we wouldn't be in the predicament we all face today.

Instead of heeding the warnings on the influx of and dependence on foreign cheap labor, our elected leaders further opened the gates by repealing the three-year stay limit in order to appease their own personal agenda and the business community such as the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands. Where are the economic benefits they promised when they repealed the three-year stay limit? Where are the promises prioritizing the training of our local workforce? Do any of you know who drafted and signed the joint resolution dated March 7, 2007, sent to Natural Resources and Energy chair Sen. Jeff Bingaman and ranking member Dominic Domeninci, presenting a "unified" position fully supporting the federalization of our local immigration? Look no further, they are seeking re-election again. A unified position was adopted without informing you, the people of the Commonwealth.

In our view, our incumbent elected leaders washed their hands after they benefited a great deal from their own creation and today they are seeking another delay. Anyone ever wonder why the Department of Homeland Security is silent on what they're doing toward federally controlling our local immigration? Simple answer, our incumbent elected leaders who are now seeking re-election can no longer be trusted. They had all failed our people in the protection of our social and cultural well-being from becoming minorities in our very homeland.

We leave you with this thought in mind, and ask yourselves the question as to who benefited from "thy bounty of thy promises of economic prosperity"? Our homeland, a U.S. territory, or our neighboring foreign countries? Ask yourselves whether the intent in our Covenant agreement toward economic self-sufficiency as a self-governing Commonwealth has been achieved? If your answer is no, then you are correct, otherwise our immigration control will still be in our hands. Oops, and do not forget those who are now sitting in the Executive Branch asking for four more years with a new slogan. Let it be? But they are still suing the Department of Homeland Security and in the same token are asking why the federal government is silent.

It's time the federal government clean up the mess left behind by our incumbents.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
President, Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

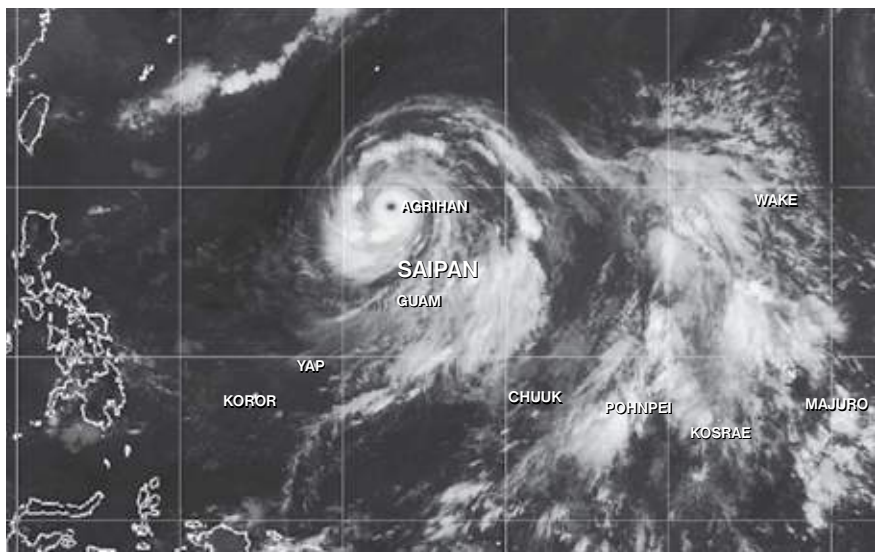
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Windy	▲85	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼76
Majuro	Rain	▲86	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲65	▼52
Beijing	Sunny	▲88	▼61
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼82
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼77
London	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼52
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲84	▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲64	▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼79
New York	Rain	▲66	▼60
Osaka	Cloudy	▲80	▼67
Paris	Cloudy	▲67	▼56
Pusan	Cloudy	▲82	▼62
Rome	Thundershowers	▲80	▼60
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲75	▼48
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲75	▼56
Seoul	Sunny	▲79	▼61
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼65
Washington, DC	Rain	▲71	▼64

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Super Typhoon Choi-wan (15W) is centered north-northwest of Saipan near 19N143E. Heavy rain and thunderstorms are within 100 miles of the center. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are embedded in spiral bands up to 250 miles from the center. Converging winds to the south and east of Choi-wan are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just east of the Marianas in an area from 17N150E to 12N153E to 9N144E back to 17N150E. For more detailed information on Choi-wan, see JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN21 PGTW and NWS Guam bulletins issued under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from southwest of Wake Island to just north of Kosrae in an area from 20N162E to 12N170E to 6N163E to 9N159E to 17N159E back to 20N162E. A weak circulation near Pohnpei at 7N157E is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in an area from 9N158E to 7N159E to 5N157E to 6N154E back to 9N158E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from Majuro to Tarawa in an area from 7N171E to 4N177E to EQ169E to 3N168E back to 7N171E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:01 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
5:30 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
12:27 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
6:59 PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:17 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:17 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:16 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:15 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:14 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:15 AM	4:59 PM
Friday	5:13 AM	5:42 PM
Saturday	6:11 AM	6:24 PM
Sunday	7:07 AM	7:07 PM
Monday	8:04 AM	7:51 PM

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- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

C0941	5:30am	8:05am	Daily
NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily
C0943	5:25pm	8:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

C0942	9:25am	1:55pm	Daily
NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
C0944	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Island Snapshots

SHOPPING GALORE

Tourists ignore the inclement weather and press ahead with their shopping Tuesday in Garapan. The CNMI dodged a bullet Tuesday morning, with Typhoon Choi-Wan just grazing Saipan and Tinian before morphing into a monster super typhoon, with maximum sustained winds of 150 miles per hour.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

POST-TYPHOON REPAIRS

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. crewmembers fix a broken sewer pump across the road from Saipan World Resort in Susupe on Tuesday. Around the island, CUC employees worked on either sewer or power infrastructure in the aftermath of Typhoon Choi-Wan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A Commonwealth Utilities Corp. personnel fixes a power line in the wake of Super Typhoon Choi-Wan Tuesday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

'NO OVERFLOW'

Rep. Raymond Palacios (Cov-Saipan) points to a portion of Lake Susupe, saying the lake did not overflow, and there were no flooded streets near it. "We're very fortunate that this storm didn't bring so much rain and wind unlike Chaba, when it rained day and night," Palacios said.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

A birthday shoutout to a special lady, Gwenny Q. Maratita, on her special day today, Sept. 17, 2009. Enjoy your kadun coconut crab! Greetings come from Robert, the kids, all your Rota families and friends. We love you!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Annie Rose Pandan, left, who celebrated her birthday on Sept. 15, 2009! May God bless you and your family! The celebrant is shown here with husband Loi and son Lord Angelo.

ANTI-SMOKING ADVOCATES

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rep. Ray Yumul and other lawmakers congratulate members of the CNMI Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition and the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition in the legislative building gallery, right after the House passed on Sept. 8, 2009, a bill banning smoking in all workplaces and public places. The bill is now on its way to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's desk for action.

WELCOME FAIR

NMC

Students of the Northern Marianas College's Criminal Justice Student Organization man a booth, looking to recruit members, at the college's first-ever Welcome Fair, which was held at the beginning of the Fall 2009 semester. The Fair also featured other booths for service providers and vendors, such as MegaByte and IT&E.

NEW SATELLITE

PREL

Jason Newcomb of PEACESAT and T.R. Mori of Chuuk work on the satellite earth station that was recently installed in Weno, Chuuk. The combined expertise of four institutions—PEACESAT, University of Guam, Chuuk State School System, and the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning—was necessary to rehabilitate and relocate the equipment that was ultimately used on this satellite earth station. The system is housed on the same grounds as the PREL service center in Weno and is currently operated and maintained by Mori.

WELCOME FAIR

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Business

Stock Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA 4,652.80 Up 105.60 (2.32%)			
HONG KONG 21,195.75 Up 329.38 (1.58%)	JAKARTA 2,436.25 Up 16.14 (0.67%)		
TOKYO 10,270.77 Up 53.15 (0.52%)	K. LUMPUR 1,176.90 Up 4.34 (0.37%)		
MANILA 2,768.61 Down 20.75 (-0.74%)	SINGAPORE 2,668.05 Up 29.65 (1.12%)		
SEOUL 1,683.33 Up 29.93 (1.81%)	BANGKOK 711.44 Up 8.28 (1.18%)		

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	9,683.41	56.61
NASDAQ	2,102.64	0.00
S&P	1,052.63	0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1533
British Pound	0.6074
Canadian Dollar	1.0711
Chinese Renminbi	6.8271
Euro	0.6808
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7500
Indian Rupee	48.3210
Indonesian Rupiah	9,777.5000
Japanese Yen	90.5900
Malaysian Ringgit	3.4855
New Zealand Dollar	1.4117
Philippine Peso	48.0550
Singapore Dollar	1.4158
South Korean Won	1,211.2250
Swiss Franc	1.0329
Taiwan Dollar	35.5290
Thailand Baht	33.7750

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Bernanke says recession 'very likely over'

Urgency for new rules for finance is slipping away

WASHINGTON (AP)—The rule book for Wall Street may not change that much after all.

Tougher financial rules that seemed inevitable after last year's crisis have been stymied by industry lobbying, government turf battles and a stabilizing banking system. If efforts to tighten oversight of the industry fail, some financial analysts fear a future crisis is inevitable.

Each of the crises of the past 25 years—the collapse of the savings and loan industry, the Internet-stock bust a decade later and last year's credit-market meltdown—were the result of inadequate regulation, says Eugene Ludwig, a former bank regulator who worked in the Treasury Department during the Clinton administration.

"The failure has been government's inability to restrain bubble growth, and then often reacting with the wrong medicine," he says.

The administration's financial plans focus on the right issues, but some don't go far enough, he says. Financial experts who are more critical of the plan say it largely consists of half-measures that aren't likely to rein in excessive risk-taking by banks.

Among other things, the administration's plan would do away with one bank regulator, but leave multiple agencies in charge of bank supervision. It calls for collaboration between the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, but stops short of combining the agencies—even though their missions are increasingly similar. And the administration would impose more controls on the largest banks' risk-taking, but would still view them as "too big to fail."

Some modest steps have been taken. Congress passed a bill restricting certain activities of credit card issuers. And investment banks have been forced to reduce the amount of borrowed money they can use when making bets.

But the most powerful changes sought by the Obama administration—such as the creation of an agency to police consumer products, including mortgages and credit cards—face an uncertain future.

President Barack Obama, whose plan has yet to get off the ground in Congress, renewed the push for financial reregulation in a speech on Wall Street Monday. His proposals would "make certain that markets foster responsibility, not recklessness" and "reward those who compete honestly and vigorously within the system, instead of those who are trying to game the system," he said.

AP

Federal Reserve Bank Board Chairman Ben Bernanke speaks at the Brookings Institution in Washington, Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Tuesday the worst recession since the 1930s is probably over, although he cautioned that pain—especially for the nearly 15 million unemployed Americans—will persist.

Bernanke said the economy likely is growing now, but he warned that won't be sufficient to prevent the unemployment rate, now at a 26-year high of 9.7 percent, from rising.

"From a technical perspective, the recession is very likely over at this point," Bernanke said in responding to questions at the Brookings Institution. "It's still going to feel like a very weak economy for some time because many people will still find that their job security and their employment status is not what they wish it was."

The recession, which started in December 2007, has claimed a net total of 6.9 million jobs.

With expectations for a lethargic recovery, the Fed predicts that unemployment will top 10 percent this year. The post-World War II high was 10.8 percent at the end of 1982.

Some economists say it will take at least four years for the jobless rate to drop down to a more normal range of 5 percent.

Even if the economy logs "moderate" growth in 2010, unemployment is likely to stay elevated, Bernanke suggested.

"Unfortunately, unemployment will be slow to come down. It will come down but it may take some time," he said. "Obviously, that's a very serious concern."

Drugmaker Eli Lilly & Co. said Monday that it will cut 5,500 jobs over the next two years, 14 percent of its work force, as it restructures the company into five units.

Still, Bernanke's declaration that the recession likely ended marked his most optimistic assessment yet of the economy. And his remarks came on the same day that the government report that retail sales jumped 2.7 percent in August, the most in more than three years.

Buy 1 take 1 free NWA/Delta ticket promo extended

HAGATNA, Guam—The recently launched Bank of Guam WorldPerks® Visa® Credit Card is experiencing significant interest that the buy 1 take 1 free airline ticket offer has been extended until Sept. 30, 2009.

Delta Air Lines® is the world's No. 1 airline. From its hubs in Atlanta, Cincinnati, Detroit, Memphis, Minneapolis-St. Paul, New York-JFK, Salt Lake City, Paris-Charles de Gaulle, Amsterdam and Tokyo-Narita, Delta, its Northwest subsidiary and Delta Connection carriers offer service to 382 destinations in 69 countries and serves more than 170 million passengers each year.

Delta's marketing alliances allow customers to earn and redeem either SkyMiles® or WorldPerks on more than 16,000 daily flights offered by SkyTeam® and other partners. Delta's more than 70,000 employees worldwide are reshaping the aviation industry as the only U.S. airline to offer a full global network.

Bank of Guam is the largest locally owned bank on Guam and the western Pacific. With 22 branches and over 75 automatic teller machines, the bank has earned a strong presence throughout its market areas. Celebrating 37 years of success in the region, Bank of Guam is known for its innovative product offerings, and a longstanding commitment to community service. ***(PR)***

BoG opens Yap branch

HAGATNA, Guam—The Bank of Guam will open its new branch on Yap tomorrow, , Sept. 18.

Alcantara

The bank's newest branch is located at A.I.T. Building, Nimar, Weloy, Yap State. Its telephone number is (691) 350-7288, while the fax number is (691)350-8273.

Headed by assistant vice president/branch manager Steven Alcantara, of Santa Rita, Guam, the branch offers a team of five banking staffers to handle all banking needs.

In addition to a 24-hour ATM located outside the branch, banking hours will be from 9am to 3pm, Monday through Thursday, and 9am to 5pm Fridays. ***(PR)***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil stays below $71 as US crude supplies climb

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hung below $71 a barrel Wednesday in Asia as an unexpected rise in U.S. crude supplies heightened investor concerns about weak consumer demand. Benchmark crude for October delivery was down 35 cents to $70.58 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Tuesday, the contract rose $2.07 to settle at $70.93. Crude prices have hugged the $70 level for months as gasoline demand remains sluggish amid signs the global economy is recovering.

Rejection of BofA settlement a setback for SEC

WASHINGTON (AP)—A judge's condemnation of the Securities and Exchange Commission in rejecting its $33 million settlement with Bank of America over bonuses at Merrill Lynch dealt a stinging rebuke to an agency seeking to mend its image after its failure to detect Bernard Madoff's fraud scheme. The SEC must weigh its options after the judge's finding that it was too gentle with one of the biggest U.S. banks. It must also struggle anew to gain credibility for its enforcement efforts. The ruling also marks a setback for the SEC's relatively new chairman, Mary Schapiro.

Consumer prices expected to have remained in check

WASHINGTON (AP)—A report due out Wednesday is expected to show that inflation remained in check last month, as the weak economy prevents retailers and manufacturers from raising prices. The report comes after the Commerce Department said Tuesday that retail sales jumped in August by the largest amount in more than three years. Labor Department data also showed that excluding volatile energy and food costs, core inflation posted a modest 0.2 percent increase, as measured by the Producer Price Index. Still, economists warn that as long as credit stays tight and jobs remain scarce, Americans probably aren't ready to spend in force again.

Nation

Jimmy Carter: Wilson comments 'based on racism'

ATLANTA (AP)—Former President Jimmy Carter said Tuesday that U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson's outburst to President Barack Obama during a speech to Congress last week was an act "based on racism" and rooted in fears of a black president.

"I think it's based on racism," Carter said in response to an audience question at a town hall held at his presidential center in Atlanta. "There is an inherent feeling among many in this country that an African-American should not be president."

The Georgia Democrat said the outburst was a part of a disturbing trend directed at the president that has included demonstrators equating Obama to Nazi leaders.

"Those kind of things are not just casual outcomes of a sincere debate on whether we should have a national program on health care," he said. "It's deeper than that."

Wilson, a South Carolina Republican, was formally rebuked Tuesday in a House vote for shouting "You lie!" during Obama's speech to Congress last Wednesday.

AP

Former President Jimmy Carter is flanked by his wife Rosalynn as he speaks during "Conversations at the Carter Center" Tuesday. Sept. 15, 2009 in Atlanta.

The shout came after the president commented that illegal aliens would be ineligible for federal subsidies to buy health insurance. Republicans expressed their disbelief with sounds of disapproval, punctuated by Wilson's outburst.

Tuesday's rebuke was a rare resolution of disapproval pushed through by Democrats who insisted that Wilson had violated basic rules of decorum and civility. Republicans characterized the measure as a witch hunt and Wilson, who had already apologized to Obama, insisted he owed the House no apology.

Wilson's spokesman was not immediately available for comment, but his eldest son defended his father.

"There is not a racist bone in my dad's body," said Alan Wilson, an Iraq veteran who is running for state attorney general. "He doesn't even laugh at distasteful jokes. I won't comment on former President Carter, because I don't know President Carter. But I know my dad, and it's just not in him."

"It's unfortunate people make that jump. People can disagree—and appropriately disagree—on issues of substance, but when they make the jump to race it's absolutely ludicrous. My brothers and I were raised by our parents to respect everyone regardless of background or race."

South Carolina's former Democratic Party chairman said that he doesn't believe Wilson was motivated by racism, but said the outburst encouraged racist views.

Technician in custody in Yale grad student slaying

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—Police and FBI agents searched the home of a Yale University animal research technician Tuesday night and led him away in handcuffs to the cheers of neighbors in a search for evidence that might tie him to the slaying of a graduate student.

No charges were filed against 24-year-old Raymond Clark III in Middletown, but police took him into custody while searching for DNA and other physical evidence. Police said Clark would be released after they obtain evidence they need from him and his Middletown apartment.

Le

Clark was escorted out of the apartment building in Middletown and into a silver car. Neighbors leaned over the apartment building's iron railings and cheered as police led him away.

New Haven Police Chief James Lewis described Clark as a person of interest, not a suspect, in the death of 24-year-old Annie Le, whose body was found stuffed behind a wall in a campus research building Sunday, the day she was to be married. He said police were hoping to compare DNA taken from Clark's hair, fingernails and saliva to more than 150 pieces of evidence collected from the crime scene. That evidence may also be compared at a state lab with DNA samples given voluntarily from other people with access to the crime scene.

"We're going to narrow this down," Lewis said. "We're going to do this as quickly as we can."

Police have collected more than 700 hours of video tape during the probe and sifted through computer records documenting who entered what parts of the research building where Le was found dead.

Investigators began staking out Clark's home on Monday, a day after they discovered Le's body hidden in the basement of a research building at Yale's medical school. She vanished Sept. 8.

Clark shares the apartment with his girlfriend, Jennifer Hromadka, whom he is engaged to marry in December 2011, according to the couple's wedding Web site.

"He seemed like a normal guy to me, no big deal," said Ivan Hernandez, 22, who lives directly above Clark and would often see him sitting on a bench outside their apartment building and smoking. "I thought he was nice, actually."

Neither the couple nor Clark's parents returned repeated telephone calls Tuesday.

Clark moved to Middletown from New Haven six months ago, where he shared an apartment with his girlfriend and three cats, according to former neighbor Taylor Goodwin, 16.

"I never really talked to him much," Goodwin said. "He was just some guy."

Baucus moving on health care without GOP support

WASHINGTON (AP)—Caught off guard, congressional Democrats are grappling with President Barack Obama's unexpected call for immediate access to insurance for those with pre-existing medical conditions, as well as richer Medicare drug benefits than envisioned in early versions of health care legislation.

Additionally, Obama's pledge in last week's prime-time speech to hold the overall cost of legislation to about $900 billion over a decade has spread concern among House Democrats, who have long contemplated a costlier measure.

Yet another late complication, according to several Democrats, is the president's statement that he will not sign a bill "if it adds one dime to the deficit, now or in the future, period. And to prove that I'm serious, there will be a provision in this plan that requires us to come forward with more spending cuts if the savings we promised don't materialize."

The $900 billion target is "very difficult," Rep. Charlie Rangel, D-N.Y., chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said Tuesday. "This is reducing coverage for poor and working people."

Rangel spoke of other "restrictions the president has given in his speech," commenting after senior House Democrats pressed top administration officials in a private meeting for an explanation of Obama's $900 billion price tag.

Obama outlined his conditions in last week's speech and an accompanying fact sheet posted on the White House Web site as Democrats point toward votes in the House and Senate this fall.

After months of bipartisan negotiations on a health care overhaul bill, Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, on Tuesday made it official that he's moving ahead without Republican support. He told reporters he intends to unveil a detailed outline of legislation on Wednesday and convene the committee next week to vote on it.

Governor delays Ohio execution after vein troubles

LUCASVILLE, Ohio (AP)—Gov. Ted Strickland ordered a weeklong reprieve for a condemned inmate Tuesday after the Ohio execution team had problems finding usable veins for the lethal injection even after the inmate tried to help.

Executioners were unable for more than two hours to find veins that would accept fluid from an IV without collapsing for 53-year-old Romell Broom, who was sentenced to die for the rape and slaying of a 14-year-old Tryna Middleton in 1984. At one point, Broom covered his face with both hands and appeared to be crying.

The scene was reminiscent of problems that delayed executions in 2006 and 2007 and led to changes in Ohio's lethal injection process. No Ohio governor has issued a similar last-minute reprieve since the state resumed executions in 1999.

AP

This undated photo released by the Ohio Department of Correction and Rehabilitation shows Romell Broom.

Richard Dieter, director of the nonprofit Death Penalty Information Center, said he knows of only one inmate who was subjected to more than one execution attempt. A first attempt to execute Willie Francis by electrocution in Louisiana did not work, and he was returned to death row for nearly a year while the U.S. Supreme Court considered whether a second electrocution would be unconstitutional.

He said he expects legal challenges will mean Broom will not face execution again in a week's time.

"I think this is going to be challenged, whether under our standards of decency subjecting someone to multiple executions is cruel and unusual ... whether this is in effect experimenting on human beings, whether or not they're sure what works in Ohio," he said.

The team began working on Broom, in a holding cell 17 steps from the execution chamber, at about 2 p.m., four hours after his execution was originally scheduled. That initial delay was due to a final federal appeals request.

ACROSS THE NATION

Colo. man denies terrorist ties after NYC raids

NEW YORK (AP)—A Colorado man denied Tuesday that he's a central figure in a terrorism investigation that fed fears of a possible bomb plot and led to several police raids in New York City. Najibullah Zazi told The Associated Press at his home outside Denver that he recently visited New York City and was driving a rental car when he was stopped by authorities Sept. 10 on the George Washington Bridge, which connects New York City and New Jersey. But he said after officers searched the vehicle, he was allowed to leave and return to suburban Denver. "All I can say is that I have no idea what it is all about," Zazi said. Two law enforcement officials confirmed Tuesday that a joint FBI-New York Police Department task force had put Zazi—a 24-year-old airport shuttle driver who a relative says recently traveled to Pakistan—under surveillance because of suspected links to al-Qaida.

Police: Texas teen hugs mother, stabs her in back

GRAPEVINE, Texas (AP)—Police say a 15-year-old Texas boy stabbed his mother in the back with a 6-inch kitchen knife while pretending to hug her after an argument. Police arrested the teen Tuesday in the Dallas-Fort Worth suburb of Grapevine about three hours after his mother called police. Authorities say the woman was treated at a Dallas hospital for a non-life-threatening wound. Police say the boy and his mom had an argument Monday night. He allegedly pretended to apologize Tuesday, then stabbed her while they embraced. The mother ran to her bedroom, locked the door and called 911. The boy's identity is being withheld because of his age, but he faces a juvenile charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

College student with sword kills burglary suspect

BALTIMORE (AP)—A Johns Hopkins University student armed with a samurai sword killed a suspected burglar in a garage behind his off-campus home early Tuesday, hours after someone broke in and stole electronics. Some shocked neighbors said they heard bloodcurdling screams in an area just blocks from the university. Police held the student, a junior chemistry major who turns 21 on Sunday, for several hours, but he was not charged with any crimes Tuesday, police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said. Around 1:20 a.m., the student heard noises behind the home and noticed a door to the garage was open, Guglielmi said. He grabbed the sword and confronted the intruder—identified by police as Donald D. Rice, 49, a habitual offender who had just been released from jail.

Asia

Hatoyama elected as Japan's prime minister

TOKYO (AP)—Longtime opposition leader Yukio Hatoyama was elected prime minister Wednesday, promising to reinvigorate Japan's economy and shake up government with his left-of-center party after more than 50 years of nearly unbroken rule by conservatives.

Hatoyama's victory marks a major turning point for Japan, which is facing its worst economic slowdown since World War II, with unemployment at record highs and wages falling.

He has vowed to cut government waste, rein in the national bureaucracy and restart the economy by putting a freeze on planned tax hikes, removing tolls on highways and focusing policies on consumers, not big business. He has also pledged to improve Tokyo's often bumpy ties with its Asian neighbors and forge a foreign policy that is more independent from Washington.

AP

Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso listens to a reporter' question during his final news conference as prime minister at the official residence in Tokyo Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009.

Parliament convened in a special session to formally select Hatoyama, whose Democratic Party of Japan won a landslide in parliamentary elections last month to take control of the body's lower house, which chooses the prime minister.

Hatoyama's party won 308 of the 480 seats in the lower chamber, ending more than 50 years of nearly unbroken rule by outgoing Prime Minister Taro Aso's Liberal Democratic Party, which is conservative and staunchly pro-U.S.

Hatoyama won 327 of the 480 votes in the lower house. He needed a simple majority of 241 votes.

"I am excited by the prospect of changing history," Hatoyama said early Wednesday. "The battle starts now."

His first task was to name a Cabinet.

He was expected to name Katsuya Okada as his foreign minister and Hirohisa Fujii as his finance minister. Though Okada has never held a Cabinet post, Fujii was finance minister under a coalition government in 1993-94, the only time in its 55-year history that the Liberal Democrats had previously been ousted from power.

RP, Muslim rebels to allow peace monitors

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The Philippine government and an Islamic separatist group have agreed to set up a group of international monitors to accelerate efforts toward a peace deal to end a bloody, decades-long rebellion in the south.

The agreement between the Manila government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front was signed in Kuala Lumpur late Tuesday following the resumption of peace talks brokered by Malaysia. The text was released to the media Wednesday.

It says the peace monitors known as the International Contact Group would help the two sides "maintain a level of comfort that restores mutual trust" and ensure compliance in any future agreement. Its members will be drawn from countries in the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the European Union as well as non-governmental organizations.

The MILF has been fighting for Muslim self-rule for decades in Mindanao, homeland of minority Muslims in the largely Roman Catholic Philippines. It is the biggest of at least four Muslim rebel groups that have waged a bloody rebellion in the volatile south.

Manila hailed the step as a "major breakthrough" to move the peace process forward.

Talks collapsed in August last year when the Philippines Supreme Court declared unconstitutional a preliminary accord on an expanded Muslim autonomous region in Mindanao and scuttled its signing.

Recount ordered at 10 pct of Afghan poll sites

KABUL (AP)—Ballots from about 10 percent of Afghanistan's polling stations need recounting because of suspicions of fraud, the chief election watchdog said Tuesday, increasing the chances that President Hamid Karzai could face a runoff.

Afghanistan's second direct presidential vote, a critical test of the West's effort to foster democracy in the country, has been tainted by allegations of massive fraud, and the final results, which were to be announced Thursday, may now be weeks away.

Meanwhile, diplomatic maneuverings to agree on an outcome that would be credible to Afghans and the outside world turned public Tuesday with confirmation that Peter Galbraith, the top American official at the U.N. mission here, left the country following a disagreement with his boss, Norwegian diplomat Kai Eide, over the election.

"Primarily, we had a somewhat different approach to the election process," Eide told The Associated Press.

Galbraith confirmed that he and Eide disagreed over how to deal with election fraud, "but that does not mean we're not both opposed to it." He said he would return to Afghanistan after briefing the U.N. Security Council at the end of the month.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Malaysia frees 5 untried terror suspects

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia on Tuesday freed five terror suspects held for up to 7 1/2 years without trial under a strict security law that has been severely criticized by civil rights groups. Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said the Malaysian men were released because they no longer presented a threat. They were arrested under the Internal Security Act for alleged involvement in Jemaah Islamiyah, an al-Qaida-linked regional militant network. Two of them have spent more than seven years in detention while the other three were held for more than two years.

Chinese ban transport of explosives in Urumqi

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese police on Tuesday banned explosives from being transported in the western region of Xinjiang, the scene of deadly ethnic rioting this summer, while more suspects were being investigated for a spate of mysterious syringe attacks. The Xinjiang Public Security Ministry said transport of weapons, ammunition, explosives and radioactive goods into or within Xinjiang would be suspended from Sept. 25 to Oct. 8. The ministry did not give a reason, but the dates cover the 60th anniversary of Communist rule in China on Oct. 1 and the holiday period afterward. The ruling party has launched a nationwide security clampdown aimed at making the anniversary pass smoothly.

World

Israelis, Palestinians present peace blueprint

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Jerusalem divided by a series of fences, trenches and walls. The West Bank and Gaza linked by a sunken highway. Palestinians and Israelis trading land that would require 100,000 Jewish settlers to move.

These proposals are part of a 424-page blueprint for Mideast peace presented Tuesday—the most detailed description yet of what an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal could look like.

The plan was released as a new U.S. diplomatic effort was under way to restart peace talks and ahead of meetings next week at the annual gathering of world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly in New York.

Created by teams of Israeli and Palestinian experts and former negotiators, the blueprint is meant to show it's still possible to establish a Palestinian state alongside Israel, despite many setbacks, said those involved in the drafting.

"If you want to resolve the conflict, here is the recipe," said Gadi Baltiansky, a leader of the Israeli team.

The core of the plan is a Palestinian state in nearly 98 percent of the West Bank, all of the Gaza Strip and the Arab-populated areas of Jerusalem. By going into the tiniest details, it highlights the staggering challenges and expense of implementing any peace deal.

The blueprint was presented Tuesday by Yossi Beilin, a former Israeli peace negotiator, and by Baltiansky, who served as an aide to former prime minister Ehud Barak.

The Palestinian participants kept a low profile. The most senior, Yasser Abed Rabbo, now a high-ranking aide to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, declined comment and did not attend the plan's unveiling in Tel Aviv.

UN probe: Evidence of war crimes in Gaza conflict

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—A U.N. investigation concluded Tuesday that both sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Gaza committed war crimes and possible crimes against humanity, raising the prospect that officials may seek prosecution in the International Criminal Court.

The probe led by former South African judge Richard Goldstone concluded that "Israel committed actions amounting to war crimes, possibly crimes against humanity," during its Dec. 27-Jan. 18 military operations against Palestinian rocket squads in the Gaza Strip.

In a 575-page report, Goldstone and three other investigators also found evidence "that Palestinian armed groups committed war crimes, as well as possibly crimes against humanity."

Goldstone said the probe, which included interviews as well as a review of documents, photos and 30 videos, was completed Tuesday morning, just hours before the hastily called news conference.

"There should be no impunity for international crimes that are committed," said Goldstone, a veteran war crimes investigator who has served as chief prosecutor for the U.N. criminal tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. "It's very important that justice should be done."

The report said that Israel's attacks in the Zeitoun neighborhood of Gaza City, including the shelling of a house where soldiers had forced Palestinian civilians to assemble, amounted to war crimes.

US special forces targeted al-Qaida in Somalia

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—The U.S. helicopters, guns blazing, swooped over a convoy carrying a top al-Qaida fugitive in rural southern Somalia. Elite commandos rappelled to the ground, collected two bodies, and took off on a cloud of red dust.

The raid took just 15 minutes.

Saleh Ali Saleh Nabhan, wanted for the 2002 car bombing of a beach resort in Kenya and an attempt to shoot down an Israeli airliner, was killed in Monday's raid, according to U.S. and Somali officials.

The helicopter assault—rare in Somalia since the October 1993 battle of "Black Hawk Down" that was chronicled in a book and movie—underscored Washington's concerns that lawless Somalia is fast becoming a haven for terrorists, including foreigners who want to plot attacks beyond the African country's borders.

Al-Shabab, a powerful local Islamist insurgent group with links to al-Qaida, swiftly vowed retaliation.

"They will taste the bitterness of our response," a senior al-Shabab commander told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to talk publicly. Al-Shabab has foreign fighters in its ranks and seeks to impose a strict form of Islam in Somalia.

Three senior U.S. officials familiar with the operation said Nabhan was killed.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iraqi shoe thrower released; says he was tortured

BAGHDAD (AP)—The Iraqi reporter who threw his shoes at former President George W. Bush in protest was freed from prison on Tuesday and, unrepentant, he harshly condemned the U.S. presence in his country and accused authorities of torturing him.

Muntadhar al-Zeidi's stunning act of protest in December made him a hero for many in and outside Iraq. It struck a chord with millions in the Arab and Muslim worlds who have been captivated and angered by daily images of destruction and grieving since the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003. But nine months later, there was little public outpouring of support for him, a sign of how things have changed.

Canada to avoid immediate election

TORONTO (AP)—One of Canada's opposition parties said Tuesday it will prop up Prime Minister Stephen Harper's minority Conservative government in a no-confidence vote this week, averting an immediate election. Bloc Quebecois Leader Gilles Duceppe said his party will vote for the government's key budget bill Friday because there is nothing inherently wrong with it. The news that Canada won't have an immediate election comes as Harper prepares to visit President Barack Obama at the White House on Wednesday.

France approves Internet piracy bill

PARIS (AP)—France's lower house of parliament approved a pioneering bill Tuesday allowing authorities to cut off Internet access to people who download illegally, a measure that entertainment companies hope will be a powerful weapon against piracy. Critics, meanwhile, complain the bill threatens civil liberties, and questions remain about exactly how it will be enforced. The bill has garnered attention beyond France, both from music and film industries struggling to keep up official revenue and from privacy advocates who worry about government intrusion.

Environment

Mitigating stormwater pollution on Saipan

Team of Investigators

GARAPAN—Local government explored stormwater pollution issues and ways to address them in a recent training workshop for government employees.

Funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the CNMI Coral Reef Initiative, the workshop trained participants on how to incorporate pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices into their operations. Land-based pollution has been identified as a major threat to coral reef health.

Part of the workshop involved having participants survey the Garapan area for potential sources and solutions for stormwater pollution. This gave them an opportunity to test a variety of field investigation methods designed to identify pollution sources and help implement remediation practices.

The exercise helped generate project ideas—from investigating illegal sewer connections to building permeable parking areas—to help cut down on polluted stormwater.

The Department of Public Works, Division of Environmental Quality and the Coastal Resources Management Office, and the Mayor's Office participated in the free workshop.

The Center for Watershed Protection, together with Horsley Witten Consulting Group, conducted the one-and-a-half-day training on Sept. 8 and 9. CWP is a nonprofit group that works to protect, restore, and enhance streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and bays. Horsley Witten is a private, environmental science and engineering firm. ***(DEQ)***

Clogged storm drain leading to Micro Beach.

Evidence of dumped used oil.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

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Hyatt Regency Saipan
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Mariana Islands Nature Alliance
Pacific Marine Resources Institute
Off the Beaten Path
Brabu Pharmacy
Paseo De Marianas Promoters
Committee to Elect
Juan Pan & Joe Camacho
WDI Saipan Inc.
DFS Galleria
Mount Carmel School
CTSI Logistics
CNMI WIC Program
Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort
Kagman High School Biology Club
Boy Scouts
Committee to Elect
Rita Chong-DelaCruz
Northern Marianas Academy - Environmental Club
Triple J Motors
The Canucks
Division of Fish and Wildlife

SAIPAN SITES:

Garapan Fishing Base to Hafa Adai
Kilili Beach
Susupe Beach
Micro Beach
(Hyatt to Smiling Cove)
Tanapag Beach
Lao Lao Beach
Cow Town
Pau Pau Beach
Tank Beach
TSL Plaza Beach
Jeffrey's Beach
Wing Beach
Old Man By The Sea
Makaka Beach
(Fiesta Resort to Hafa Adai Hotel)

*Note: These lists were updated Sept. 16. New groups and sites are added daily.
Visit BEAUTIFY CNMI's Web site: www.beautifycnmi.org for updates and contacts.

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Life & Style

Dan Brown returns after 6 year wait

NEW YORK (AP)—The mind of Dan Brown may be a cluster of codes, but in person he appears no more mysterious than your average tennis partner. He is that smiling, sandy-haired man with the dimpled chin you know from the jacket flap of "The Da Vinci Code," the sporty looking fellow in blazer and slacks.

After six years of letting his work do the talking—a conversation that whispered and screamed across the globe—he is back, at least briefly, to promote his new novel, "The Lost Symbol," and to reflect on how "The Da Vinci Code" changed him from unknown thriller writer to a symbol in his own right. "I wouldn't trade it for the world," he says, seated on a recent morning in a sunlit conference room at the headquarters of Random House, Inc. "It's 95 percent wonderful. My life is much more multifaceted. My experiences have gotten to be much more interesting, the people I get to meet, the discussions I get to have."

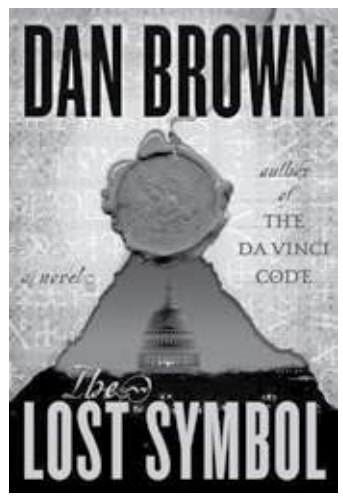
The book is done and he beams like a father, "so pleased this day has arrived." His publisher has blessed "The Lost Symbol," with a first printing of 5 million, oversized for virtually any writer except Brown, whose sales for "The Da Vinci Code" top 40 million. "The Lost Symbol" has been at or near the top of Amazon.com's best-seller list since the novel was announced in the spring.

The long wait for his new book, he says, is mostly due to the story, "mindboggling stuff" which required time to master. In "The Lost Symbol," protagonist Robert Langdon returns from his European adventures of "The Da Vinci Code." He has been summoned to Washington, D.C., and is quickly caught up in a fateful race against a murderous villain to find a hidden code that supposedly unearths an ancient secret to limitless knowledge and power.

Like "The Da Vinci Code," the new book is thriller, puzzler, research paper and travelogue. Langdon hurries about from the Library of Congress to the National Archives to the Washington Monument, a capsule of the journeys Brown took in working on the novel, traveling first class all the way, like receiving personal tours of the Library of Congress and other buildings.

"Those things wouldn't have happened if it wasn't for `The Da Vinci Code,'" he notes.

Library spokesman Matt Raymond confirmed that Brown had visited in April 2008 and had looked over some Bibles in the library's collection. He also met for about 30 minutes with Librarian of Congress James Billington for a "private discussion."



AP
In this book cover image released by Doubleday, Dan Brown's book "The Lost Symbol," is shown.

Fame's unwonderful 5 percent is the kind that other major celebrities face: a loss of privacy that Brown says makes it impossible to tour for his new book, a heightened self-awareness that briefly, just a couple of months, he says, made it hard for him to write "The Lost Symbol."

He was also delayed by the 2006 copyright infringement trial in which writers Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh claimed Brown's book "appropriated the architecture" of their own work. Brown and Random House prevailed.

"That was certainly a setback, mainly because it was a distraction and all that the energy that goes into a trial is not going into your work," he says. "The worst part of it was having someone question my integrity, publicly."

He was attacked often for "The Da Vinci Code," especially for alleging that Jesus and Mary Magdalene conceived a child. Scholars scorned him, and religious officials were offended, but Brown stands by his theory, finding it "makes more sense than the story I was told in church."

Brown's new book is centered on the Freemasons, the secretive, centuries-old fraternity that has included George Washington, Teddy Roosevelt and Harry Truman. He has great respect for the Masons, especially for their policy of accepting people of all religious faiths. But he wouldn't be surprised if someone gets angry.

"There will be a lot said, not all of it will be nice," he says. "And I'm just kind of used to it."

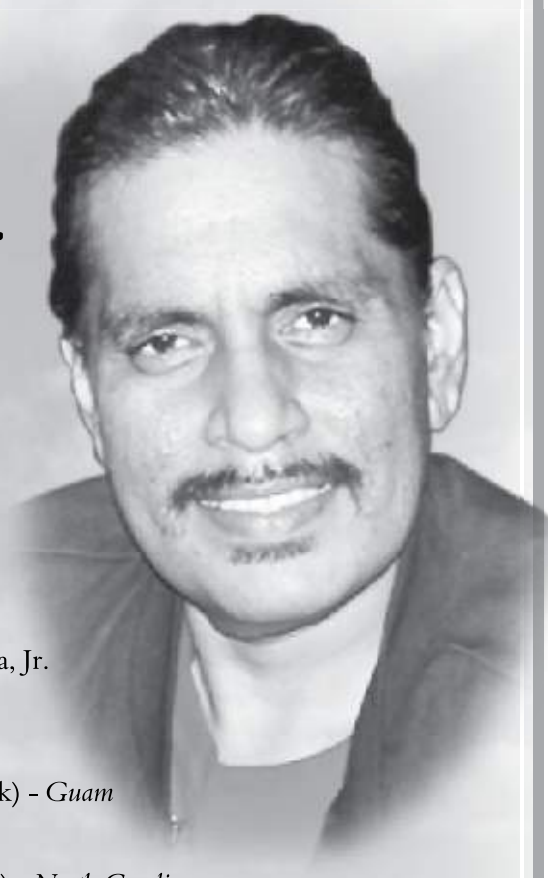
He doesn't talk to a lot to the press, but Brown's history is as known as most authors' thanks in part to a mini-biography he never wished to produce—a 69-page court document submitted for the London trial.

He was born in 1964 in Exeter, N.H., and still lives near there. His father, Richard Brown, taught math at Exeter Phillips Academy. His mother, Constance Brown, was a musician. The first treasure hunts he knew were the ones his father arranged at Christmas.

Brown majored in English at Amherst College, but also liked music enough to debate after graduating whether he should write stories or songs. Choosing songs, he moved to Los Angeles and caught on with no one except for the woman who became his wife, Blythe Newlon, the director of artistic development for the National Academy of Songwriters.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Loving Memory of



†**Henry Dakano Tudela**

Born to Life on December 17, 1974
Called to Eternal Life on September 9, 2009

His memories will forever remain in the hearts of his:

Wife: Carmen Anne Barcinas Sablan-Tudela
Parents: Francisco DLG. Tudela (BEYA)
†Relina Dakano Tudela

Parents-In-Law: George Ayuyu Sablan (KAPPON)
Dolores Barcinas Sablan (PITU)

Children: Jordan Xavier Ilo & Henry Jonah Ilo Tudela, Jr.

Grandmother-In-Law: Ana Mendiola Ayuyu Sablan

Brothers and Sisters:
Ricky & Clarissa Tudela (Relita, Kaelene, Ricky Jr., Kendrick) - *Guam*
Francine D. Tudela & Murphy Paul
Joseph D. Tudela - *Washington*
Helen T. & Steve Eavenson (William Moses, Barbara, Scott) - *North Carolina*
Stephen & Noshi Lepton (Ernest, Dianna, Rianna, David) – *Marshall Is.*
Emlok L. & Allan Zacharias (Jolina Lepton, Roslyn, Carrie, Erwina, Walter, Lora, Glen)
Betty & Rickson Hadley (Darrel, Vanessa, Treamma, Bob, Roxannamun, Christian) - *Guam*

Brother and Sisters-In-Law:
George B. Sablan, Jr. - *Hawaii*
Dora Lynn B. Sablan and Rodney Tenorio - *Nevada*
Agnes Cecile B. Sablan (Noah Cedric) - *Hawaii*
Caroline Marie B. Sablan – *Hawaii*

In his new life, he now joins his:

Mother: †Relina Dakano Tudela

Paternal Grandparents: †Enrique Ramirez Tudela
†Maria Sablan DLG. (Songao) Tudela

Maternal Grandparents: †Jorim Matu Dakano
†Eleka Welles Dakano

Grandparents-In-Law: †Herman Atalig Sablan
†Domingo Blanco Barcinas
†Carmen DLG. Sablan Barcinas

Sisters-In-Law: †Carmen B. Sablan
†Concepcion B. Sablan

Today, Thursday, September 17, 2009, there will be a viewing at Nuestra Señora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

On Friday, September 18, 2009, his remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Santa Soledad Church, Kagman at 7:30 AM. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 AM followed by the interment service at Sanctuario Pax Memorial Gardens, Kagman.

Thank You and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Carmen Anne Barcinas Sablan Tudela & Children
Francisco DLG Tudela, Children & Family

In Loving Memory

Pasqual Ngiraiterong Brel

Fondly known as "**OITE**"

January 2, 1945 to September 6, 2009

"Of Melekeok, Palau, having made Saipan his home for many years, was called to eternal life by our Heavenly Father at the age fo 64."

He now joins his daughter: †Baslisa Brel and all his relatives and ancestors that predeceased him.

Prayers will be offered each evening at his residence in Chalan Kiya, beginning September 16,2009 throuhgh September 18, 2009 at 8:00pm.

Oite will be missed and remembered in the hearts of his,

Wife: Isadora West Brel
Daughter: Micheline Brel (Aiden Ngiratis; Tegan Baslisa)
Sons: Lanz Brel and Lucky Brel
Sisters: Akemi Delbirt, Damiana "Nana" Ruluked, Angeline Sandei Ilek
Brothers: Dismas Sandei Ilek, Sinesio Sandei Ilek, Evalisto Ilek, Richard Sandei, Lewis Ilek, Isidoro Ilek, Toshiro Mifune Sandei Ilek

Numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, his brothers and sisters in laws, Christian fellows, friends and neighbors.

Last Respects & Christian Fellowship for Oite will be held at the Saipan Palauan Evangelical Church in Navy Hill on September 19, 2009 (Saturday) at 8:00 a.m.

Internment will follow at Tanapag Cemetery.

Critics slam Leno, even as millions of viewers tune in

NEW YORK (AP)—The critics savaged Jay Leno's primetime experiment. Viewers gave it the biggest audience for an entertainment show since the "American Idol" finale in May. What's next is anybody's guess.

An estimated 18.4 million viewers sampled the first night of "The Jay Leno Show" Monday, Nielsen Media Research said. But the most hyped debut of the fall season had the added advantage of being piggybacked onto one of the country's biggest stories. Leno interviewed Kanye West about why he had interrupted Taylor Swift the night before on the MTV Video Music Awards.

Leno

The challenge will be holding on to viewers. Leno's variety show will air five nights a week at 10 p.m., a grand experiment for network television to see if NBC can build a profitable business competing with dramas on its network rivals.

"It's great to launch this innovative new show with such strong initial sampling, but we realize this is just one night and that we're going to build our business in this time period with ratings that will level out over time," said Jeff Gaspin, chairman of NBC Universal Television Entertainment. "Our focus is on developing a consistent comedy viewing habit at 10 p.m. over the long haul."

NBC executives had other reasons to be cautious in their reaction. When Conan O'Brien debuted on the "Tonight" show last spring, NBC described him as the new king of late-night after one week of ratings, only to be embarrassed when O'Brien subsequently slipped behind David Letterman.

It's tough to gauge how much impact West's appearance had on the ratings. The show peaked in viewership during its second quarter-hour, during Jerry Seinfeld's appearance, Nielsen said. Only two other shows have drawn a larger prime-time audience since the summer months, NFL games that aired this past week, Nielsen said.

During his last season hosting "The Tonight Show," Leno averaged 5.2 million viewers to claim the No.1 spot in late-night. But critics—never big fans of Leno—were harsh in their assessment of his new endeavor, finding it not much different from what he had been doing at 11:30 p.m. for 17 years.

Death & Funeral Announcement

Mariano Ayuyu San Nicolas "Mario"

November 27, 1955 - September 11, 2009

In his New Life, he now joins

Father	:	Antonio Lujan San Nicolas
Mother	:	Consolacion Ayuyu San Nicolas (Santos)
Step Father	:	Joaquin Pangelinan Santos
Son	:	Joaquin S. San Nicolas
Grandson	:	Thomas San Nicolas
Sisters	:	Agnes SN Camacho, Regina SN. Pinaula & Thomasa SN
Nieces	:	Connie, Clarabell & Claudia

His memories will live in the hearts of his

Wife	:	Josefina G. San Nicolas
Children & Grandchildren	:	Anthony, Junie, (Benjamin, John Jr., Clarabell) Agnes, Chan (Joaquin Jerry) John, Lovia (Jonathan) David, Alicia (Jude Michael, Ennalicia, Elyssa, Edward Joseph) Tamara, Jeffrey, Sonny
Brothers & Sisters In-Law	:	David & Maria Rosa, Margarita & Robert, Ramon & Susan, Carmen & Jose, Jose & Maritess And numerous nephews, nieces, uncles, aunts

Mass and Rosary is said nightly at Nuestra Senora Dela Soledad, Kagman Church at 6:00 p.m. followed by nightly Rosary at 7:00 p.m.

On September 19, 2009 his remains will be escorted from CHC at 11:30 a.m. to Nuestra Senora Dela Soledad, Kagman Church. The Holy Mass will be at 2:30 p.m. Interment will be at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Si Yuus Maase Ginen I Asaguana, Famagon yan I Familia Siha.

In Celebration Of Her New Life

Victoria Santos Borja Aguon

July 8, 1951 — September 11, 2009

In her new life, she now joins her:

Father:	Daniel Tudela Borja
Mother:	Joaquina Sablan Santos Borja
Father-In-Law:	Juan Borja Aguon
Mother-In-Law:	Maria Cruz Aguon
Daughter:	Victoria Borja Aguon
Grandson:	Jose Borja
Brothers and Sisters-In-Law:	David C. and Winnifrieda T. Aguon Bernadette C. Aguon Jesse James C. Aguon Leticia C. Borja

She is survived by her:

Husband:	Juan Cruz Aguon
Children:	Frances Borja and Oscar Pangelinan (*Nathaniel, Dustin Jon, Oscar, Jr.*) Joaquina Borja Aguon and Isidoro Cabrera (*Toriana Lourdes*) John Vincent Borja Aguon and Yvonne Demello
Reared Daughters:	Victoria M. and Brainard Jones Bernadine B. Montague
Reared Son:	Lianny C. Pangelinan
Reared Grandchild:	Devin Calvo Santos
Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:	Vicente S. Borja and children Jose S. & Nancy Borja and children Juan S. & Nicolasa B. Borja and children Maria B. & Jose H. Salas and children Ines B. & Thomas Castro and children Daniel S. Borja, Jr. Roman S. & Anita A. Borja and children
Brothers and Sisters and In-Laws:	Helen A. & David Chellis and children Ricardo C. & Mikella Aguon and children Joseph C. & Helen Aguon and children Catalina A. & Pete Salamone and children Edward C. & Magdalena DLG. Aguon and children Bernadita C. Aguon Margarita A. and Kenneth Leon Guerrero and children Francisca C. Aguon and children
Special Sisters:	Cecilia Camacho Pangelinan and Tita Hocog
Family Friends:	Bernie Montague and Nida Bragado

She is additionally survived by numerous Aunts, Uncles, Godchildren, Nieces, Nephews, Cousins and Friends.

Daily morning mass is being offered at 6 a.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and evening Mass at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at the Kristo Rai Church. Nightly Rosary is being prayed at 7:00 p.m. at Kristo Rai Church.

On Friday, September 18, 2009, there will be a viewing at the Borja Funeral Home after the rosary.

On Saturday, September 19, 2009, the departed will be taken from the Borja Funeral Home at 7:00 a.m. to Kristo Rai Church and Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 a.m.

Interment Service will follow at her residence in As Teo.

West calls Taylor Swift after 'View' appearance

NEW YORK (AP)—It looks like Kanye West has finally given a personal apology to Taylor Swift. Representatives from "The View" say West called the country sensation after her appearance on Tuesday's show. During the broadcast, the 19-year-old singer said West had yet to contact her to apologize for hijacking her acceptance speech on the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday.

"He has not personally reached out or anything but if he wanted to say hi (I would)," said Swift.

After Swift's comments, West called her and the two spoke, according to a statement from "The View."

"After the show he spoke personally to the country music superstar via telephone and has apologized to the 19-year-old singer. She has accepted Mr. West's apology. The contents of the phone call are to remain private," it read.

AP

Singer Kanye West takes the microphone from singer Taylor Swift as she accepts the "Best Female Video" award during the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009 in New York.

Afterward, Swift told ABC News Radio: "He was very sincere in his apology and I accepted that apology."

It's the latest in the saga that has caused a national uproar. The drama began after Swift beat out Beyonce and other acts to win best female video at the VMAs for her hit "You Belong With Me."

Swift, the first country act to win at the VMAs, was exuberant after her win, but that moment didn't last long as West—known for his awards-show meltdowns—grabbed the microphone and declared that Beyonce's "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)" was one of the "best videos of all time."

A shaken Swift did not finish her speech at that moment, but when Beyonce later won for video of the year, she brought Swift out so that she could have her moment.

When asked about the incident during her appearance on "The View," Swift said: "I'm not gonna say that I wasn't rattled by it. I had to perform live five minutes later so I had to get myself back to the place where I could perform."

However, she said she was gratified by the outpouring of support not only from fans, but also from celebrities and others who offered support immediately after the incident occurred.

"There were a lot of people around me backstage that were saying wonderful, incredible things and just having my back," she said. "I just never imagined that there were that many people looking out for me."

West has taken a drubbing since then. While he issued two apologies on his blog after the incident, he gave another, emotional one on Monday's premiere of "The Jay Leno Show."

"It was rude, period," West said. "... I need to, after this, take some time off and just analyze how I'm going to make it through the rest of this life, how I'm going to improve."

President's opinion of Kanye West sparks debate

NEW YORK (AP)—President Barack Obama's candid thoughts about Kanye West are provoking a debate over standards of journalism in the Twitter age.

ABC News says it was wrong for its employees to tweet that Obama had called West a "jackass" for the rapper's treatment of country singer Taylor Swift. The network said some of its employees had overheard a conversation between the president and CNBC's John Harwood and didn't realize it was considered off the record.

The network apologized to the White House and CNBC.

Harwood had sat down with the president to tape an interview following his appearance on Wall Street on Monday. Although they are competitors, CNBC and ABC share a fiber optic line to save money, and this enabled some ABC employees to listen in on the interview as it was being taped for later use.

Obama

Their attention was drawn to chatter about West, who was widely criticized for interrupting Swift as she accepted an award at Sunday's MTV Video Music Awards to say that Beyonce deserved it.

During what sounds like informal banter before the interview begins, Obama is asked whether his daughters were annoyed by West's hijacking of Swift's acceptance statement, according to an audio copy that was posted on TMZ.com.

"I thought that was really inappropriate," Obama says. "What are you butting in (for)? ... The young lady seems like a perfectly nice person. She's getting her award. What's he doing up there?"

A questioner chimes in, "Why would he do it?"

"He's a jackass," Obama replies, which is met with laughter from several people.

The president seems to quickly realize he may have gone too far, and jovially appeals to those assembled that the remark be kept private. "Come on guys," he says. "Cut the president some slack. I've got a lot of other stuff on my plate."

Winner crowned on CBS TV show 'Big Brother 11'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jordan Lloyd was served the $500,000 grand prize on "Big Brother 11."

The goofy 22-year-old waitress from Matthews, N.C., bested Natalie Martinez, the scheming 24-year-old recent college graduate from Gilbert, Ariz., on the season finale of the voyeuristic CBS reality show. Lloyd received five votes from the show's seven-member jury, which included viewer votes as the possibly tie-breaking seventh pick for the first time.

AP

In this image released by CBS, the cast of the CBS summer show "Big Brother 11" is shown.

Lloyd, who spent most of the season aligned with and romantically linked to charming 31-year-old advertising salesman Jeff Schroeder, defeated Kevin Campbell, the cunning 29-year-old graphic designer from Chula Vista, Calif., in the last round of a three-part Head of Household competition, which allowed her to choose Martinez to battle against for votes.

"It was my fault," Campbell lamented. "I should have won the last competition."

Martinez, who earned a $50,000 second-place prize, had been aligned with several jury members, but her lies in the game apparently caught up to her in the jury house and cost her votes. Her biggest fib? Fooling most of the contestants—or houseguests, as they're referred to on the show—into believing she was an 18-year-old recent high school graduate.

"She acted like she was 12," said Schroeder, who was voted "favorite houseguest" by viewers and won a $25,000 prize.

Lloyd outplayed her 12 competitors, who were all isolated from the outside world and monitored by dozens of cameras and microphones, for 73 days inside the "Big Brother" house.

She cited her unbreakable bond with Schroeder and ability to win competitions after he was eliminated as the main reasons why she should win.

So what is she going to do with the moolah?

"Put a down payment on a house for me, my mom and my brother," she said.

The live two-hour finale also featured the jury's interrogation of the final two and a reunion of the "Big Brother" cast—except for Chima Simone, the 33-year-old freelance journalist who was expelled after tossing a microphone into a whirlpool spa. Because Simone wasn't part of the jury, viewers cast the possibly tie-breaking seventh vote for Lloyd.

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Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Kate Beckinsale, Gabriel Macht
Action, Thriller, Crime • Rated R
Synopsis
Carrie Stetko, the lone U.S. Marshal assigned to Antarctica, is investigating the continent's first murder, which draws her into a shocking mystery. Now, with only three days until winter, Carrie must solve the crime before Antarctica is plunged into darkness and she is stranded with the killer.

Sorority Row
Friday 4:05 7:10 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:05 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:05 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:10
Briana Evigan, Leah Pipes
Thriller, Horror, Remake • Rated R

The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard
Friday 4:20 7:15 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:20 7:15 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:20 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:15
Jeremy Piven, Ving Rhames
Comedy • Rated R

Gamer
Friday 4:15 7:30 9:45
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:30 9:45
Sunnday 1:15 4:15 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:30
Gerald Butler, Amber Valletta
Action, Thriller • Rated R
Synopsis
Set in the near future, a time when mind-control technology has taken society by storm. Humans control other humans in a mass-scale, multiplayer online game. Redusive billionaire Ken Castle has created the controversial form of entertainment, "Slayers," a hugely popular game that allows millions to act out their innermost desires and fantasies–online–in front of a global audience. Gaming has evolved into a terrifying new dimension-mind control-manipulation-people playing people. At the center is Kable, the superstar and cult hero of "Slayers," the savage, ultra-violent first person shooter game.

Final Destination 4
Friday 4:25 7:20 9:30
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:30
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:20
Bobby Campo, Shantel VanSanten
Supernatural • Rated R

The Time Traveler's Wife
Friday 7:05 9:35
Saturday 7:05 9:35
Sunday 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 7:05
Rachel McAdams, Eric Bana
Drama, Romance, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

Shorts
Friday 4:10
Saturday 1:05 4:10
Sunday 1:05 4:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:10
Jimmy Bennett, Jake Short
Children • Rated PG

G.I. JOE
Friday 4:30 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:30 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:30 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:25
Dennis Quaid, Channing Tatum
War • Rated PG 13

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$250K top prize up for grabs in Mich. art event

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP)—A school of glimmering, silvery-white fish wriggle high above a downtown river. A few blocks away on a Michigan sidewalk, four stark red piranhas have taken large bites out of a running man's briefcase and rear end. A purple, 10-foot-tall jelly bean stands outside a nearby castle.

As the first ArtPrize art competition is set to begin next week in Grand Rapids, works of every imaginable size, shape, color and medium are popping up at 159 venues throughout the downtown area. More than 1,200 artists from two dozen countries are competing for a total of $449,000, including $250,000 for first place—one of the world's largest awards for an art competition.

"I think this is amazing to have this much artwork all throughout downtown," said Sarah Joseph, director of exhibitions at Kendall College of Art and Design. "It's great that it's everywhere."

If it's not everywhere just yet, it soon will be.

Colorful oils, acrylics and sketches are at Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital. Rocky's Bar and Grill will have a hodgepodge of paintings, including one of a clown, and photographs of various Michigan locales. The Thomas M. Cooley Law School will offer have a steel-and-polyurethane sculpture of a human figure.

AP

In this photo taken on Thursday Sept. 10, 2009, the founder of ArtPrize.org, Rick DeVos stands in front of Alexander Calder's Le Grande Vitesse in the middle of downtown Grand Rapids, Mich.

As Judy Johnson walked past the four red piranhas Monday, she said she believes the 18-day event that kicks off Sept. 23 will give a boost to the state's second-largest city.

"I think it'll be fantastic," said Johnson, 57, an administrator for Grand Rapids Public Schools. "It will get people downtown and be something to put Grand Rapids on the map, hopefully."

She plans to bring in friends and family members to "see as many (works) as we can."

People who register for the event will determine the top 10 artworks, including the winner, by voting at ArtPrize's Web site, or through text messaging or an iPhone application. Prizes will be awarded Oct. 8, two days before the competition ends to give people time to see the winning pieces.

"The point of ArtPrize is the conversation," said Rick DeVos, 27, who created the competition. "That's why it's a public vote ... to give a reason for people to talk to each other about what they like, what they don't like, why you should like this, why you shouldn't like that."

The response from artists and venue officials has been remarkable, he said.

"When we announced this in April, we figured, kind of internally, that if we had 300 artists that matched with venues, that would be success for the first year," DeVos said. "We're at 1,262—so about four times that—and it kind of blows us away, but it's really cool and I think speaks to the hospitality of the community."

ACLU: 'Survivor' winner's jailtime was retaliatory

BOSTON (AP)—Richard Hatch may have won "Survivor," but he's now dealing with his own painful reality—being held in solitary confinement for 23 hours a day, the American Civil Liberties Union said Monday.

The ACLU demanded Hatch's release from Barnstable County jail on Cape Cod. He was serving the rest of his sentence for failing to pay taxes on his $1 million prize for winning "Survivor" when he gave media interviews accusing a prosecutor of misconduct and said the judge in the case discriminated against him because he is gay.

Officials from the Federal Bureau of Prisons said two of the interviews were not authorized and sent him back to jail.

On Monday, the ACLU told U.S. District Judge Nathaniel Gorton that Hatch has been held under "harsh" conditions for the last 28 days, allowed outside his cell only one hour a day to exercise or shower.

Attorney Michael Schneider said the decision to put Hatch in jail is a "clear-cut violation of his First Amendment rights." The move seemed aimed at getting back at Hatch for criticizing the government in the interviews, he said.

But Assistant U.S. Attorney Eve Piemonte-Stacey said Hatch was sent back to jail because he gave three media interviews when authorized to give only one.

"Prisons have rules, whether you are inside or outside or in a halfway house. When a person violates those rules, there are ramifications," she said. "He's not in federal custody for something that he said or something that he is."

Piemonte-Stacey disputed the characterization of the conditions in the jail as "harsh." Hatch was placed in the segregation unit as any other inmate would be after arriving at the jail, she said. He will be taken out of segregation soon, she said.

Hatch's lawyers asked the judge to release Hatch outright or let him finish his period of home confinement, scheduled to end Oct. 7.

Schneider said the Bureau of Prisons has indicated that it may withhold 10 days of good time from Hatch, meaning he would not be released until Oct. 17.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Placido Domingo offers free concert in Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Spanish tenor Placido Domingo thrilled several hundred Venezuelans on Tuesday by showcasing his soaring voice during a free concert and heaping praise on the founder of the South American country's famed youth orchestras. Domingo said composer Jose Antonio Abreu "deserves a monument" for inspiring more than a million Venezuelan children to take up music since he founded "The System," a network of more than 200 youth and children's orchestras, over 30 years ago. "Abreu has given the Venezuelan people one of the biggest gifts, and given the children the privilege to become musicians," he said. "The System," currently includes more than 250,000 students across Venezuela, has become a model for similar programs in countries from Brazil to Britain. Domingo—one of the world's most famous tenors—celebrated his 40th season this year at New York's Metropolitan Opera. He has won worldwide acclaim outside the opera scene as one of The Three Tenors, with Jose Carreras and the late Luciano Pavarotti. Domingo is slated to perform again on Thursday with the local Teresa Carreno Youth Orchestra

'Housewives' sidekick Joosten's cancer is back

NEW YORK (AP)—Kathryn Joosten (JOO'-sten), who plays the crotchety Karen McCluskey on ABC's "Desperate Housewives," is battling a recurrence of lung cancer. Joosten's publicist, Thomas DeLorenzo, says a spot on the left lung was detected during a recent physical. He says the 69-year-old actress started smoking when she was 16 but quit after her first lung cancer diagnosis in 2001. Joosten wants to alter the perceptions that people with lung cancer did it to themselves. She says that stigma combined with denial that it kills as many as 450 people every day "creates an environment in which no diagnostics or treatments can be developed." Joosten also appeared on "The West Wing."

Letterman appearance latest for Obama media blitz

NEW YORK (AP)—President Barack Obama is visiting David Letterman on Monday, part of a media blitz to sell his health care plan. CBS says it would make the first visit ever by a sitting president to Letterman's "Late Show." Obama has appeared on Letterman's show five times before, the last during the campaign in September 2008. The president is scheduled to visit Sunday morning talk shows this weekend on ABC, CBS, NBC and CNN. That's a highly unusual schedule, even for a president eager to get his message across throughout the media. Obama will be the sole guest on Monday's "Late Show."

Vidal, Eggers to receive honorary awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Congratulations, Gore Vidal. The author, playwright and political commentator will receive an honorary National Book Award medal this fall for "Distinguished Contribution to American Letters." Vidal, who turns 84 next month, is known for such best sellers as "Burr" and "Lincoln," and for the play "The Best Man." Award organizers also announced Tuesday that Dave Eggers, 39, will be presented the "Literarian Award" for community service. Eggers, whose books include "A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius," helped found 826 Valencia, which works with young people to develop writing skills, and has centers based in San Francisco, New York and several other cities. The ceremony for the National Book Awards, now in their 60th year, will be held Nov. 18. Author-comedian Andy Borowitz will host.

Mom is devastated to learn 'other woman' is her daughter

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a 58-year-old woman who has just been dumped by my 55-year-old boyfriend for a younger woman. She is 18, and if that isn't bad enough—she's my daughter. They are now living together.

For more than a year we functioned as a family. We had regular game nights and took a family vacation together. Because of their betrayal, I have lost my daughter, my boyfriend, the two people I thought were also my best friends, and my family all at the same time. I don't know anyone who has had this happen to them, but unfortunately there must be some out there.

How do I go on? How do I maintain a relationship with my daughter when she is living with my ex-boyfriend? How do I accept what has happened without approving of it? There is so much wrong with this I'm at a loss for rules or tools to handle it.

IN CRUSHING PAIN IN OREGON

DEAR IN CRUSHING PAIN: There ARE no "rules." And it does occasionally happen—most famously with Mia Farrow, her adopted daughter and her longtime boyfriend Woody Allen. But I believe Ms. Farrow cut off all contact with both of them.

But enough about her. You are going to have to figure out what will work best for you. Your first step should be to seek spiritual support. Sometimes, with time, comes acceptance. But right now, it is crucial that you take care of yourself.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm 19 and finally getting my life together. I have already experienced a lot emotionally and physically. I have recently started on the path to sobriety, but there are two problems. In the city where I live there is nothing to do after 10 p.m. if you're not a drunk. My friends from childhood not only do not support me but tell me I should just have a drink.

I know you should keep yourself surrounded by people who will lift you up, but these people have been my close companions for many years, and I don't think I can dismiss them that easily. Please help me. I like how my life is right now, and I need to know how to stay focused.

DRUNK OR SOBER? IN NEW YORK

DEAR D. OR S.?: If you want to hang on to your sobriety, you are going to have to fight for it. You got off on a wrong path very early, and so did your childhood friends. But now you have an opportunity to make new ones—the members of your sobriety program. The more time you spend with them, the less time you will have to allow yourself to be seduced into falling off the wagon.

If you're strong enough to do this, you can be a role model for some of your old drinking buddies, and some may decide to join you. But if they don't, you will have made new friends who have also made positive changes in their lives—and that's not a bad consolation prize.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Please tell me your position on this. Are adult children supposed to take an aging mother with them on vacation? If not, what is a gentle way to say no when the parent invites herself? Please help us.

UNSURE IN OHIO

DEAR UNSURE: I think it depends upon the relationship between the mother and "child." It also depends upon the purpose of the vacation. If a couple is going away to relax and bond more closely with each other, they do not need a third wheel—regardless of how much they might love her. And the way to say that is, "We need some alone time, Mom. Please understand."

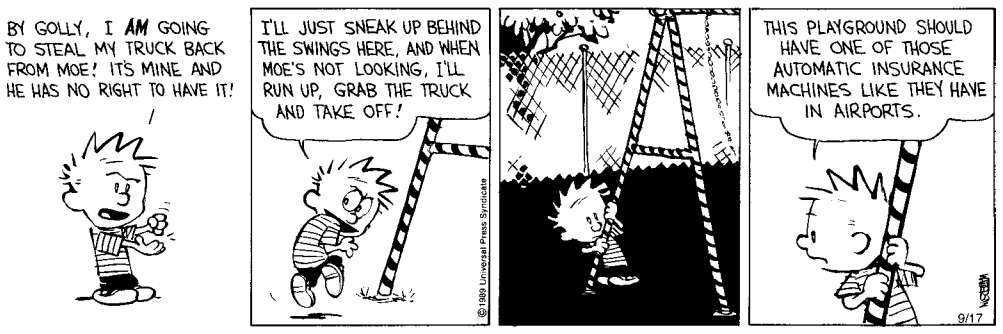
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


BY GOLLY, I AM GOING TO STEAL MY TRUCK BACK FROM MOE! IT'S MINE AND HE HAS NO RIGHT TO HAVE IT!
I'LL JUST SNEAK UP BEHIND THE SWINGS HERE, AND WHEN MOE'S NOT LOOKING, I'LL RUN UP, GRAB THE TRUCK AND TAKE OFF!
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THIS PLAYGROUND SHOULD HAVE ONE OF THOSE AUTOMATIC INSURANCE MACHINES LIKE THEY HAVE IN AIRPORTS.
9/17

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

LAP DOG NEEDS GOOD HOME
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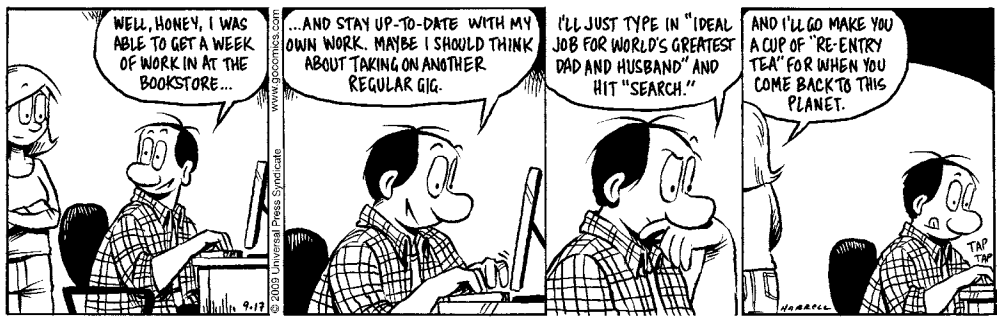
NOW THERE'S A LAP I'D LIKE TO SEE
JIM DAVIS 9-17

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WELL, HONEY, I WAS ABLE TO GET A WEEK OF WORK IN AT THE BOOKSTORE...
...AND STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH MY OWN WORK. MAYBE I SHOULD THINK ABOUT TAKING ON ANOTHER REGULAR GIG.
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I'LL JUST TYPE IN "IDEAL JOB FOR WORLD'S GREATEST DAD AND HUSBAND" AND HIT "SEARCH."
AND I'LL GO MAKE YOU A CUP OF "RE-ENTRY TEA" FOR WHEN YOU COME BACK TO THIS PLANET.
TAP TAP

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

IF I COULD BUILD THE PERFECT WOMAN, I'D MAKE HER EXACTLY LIKE YOU.
WAP
© 2009 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
EXCEPT MAYBE NOT SO SLAPPY.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Emulated Michael Phelps
5 Goya's "Duchess of —"
9 URL bit
12 Incite
13 Fly high
14 Sapporo sash
15 26-Down attendee
17 Tear
18 "The Usual Suspects" actor
19 Identifies
21 Fire
22 Memorable mission
24 Feedbag fill
27 Carte lead-in
28 Former larva
31 "A pox upon thee!"
32 Beleaguered spacecraft
33 Turf
34 Envelope feature
36 "Bleah!"
37 "F" heaven's sake!"
38 Sign of life
40 "— what?"
41 Form
43 Opening remark?
47 The girl
48 26-Down attendee
51 Illustrations
52 Reed instrument
53 Protracted
54 Possibly will
55 Require
56 Ostriches' kin

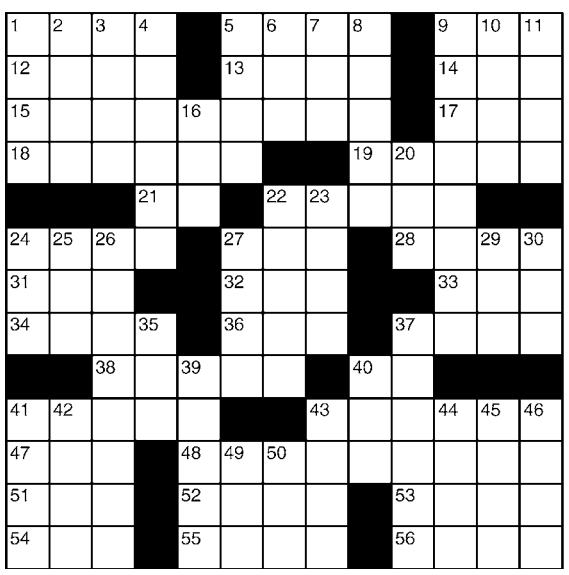
DOWN

1 Addition problems
2 Enclose
3 City of India
4 Groups' havens
5 Wan
6 Mauna —
7 Tavern
8 Action venue
9 26-Down attendee
10 Theater trophy
11 Gratuities
16 Whammy
20 Pump up the volume
22 26-Down attendee
23 Caprice
24 Askew
25 Have a bug
26 Wonderland event
27 Writer Kingsley
29 "The Raven" man
30 Woodworking tool
35 Young dog
37 Nudge
39 Dealership dud
40 Vast expanse
41 Counterfeit
42 Wife of Zeus
43 Molt
44 Teensy bit
45 Waiter's handout
46 Work measures
49 Honest politician
50 Anonymous John

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	A	L	E	■	D	E	B	■	W	A	R	P
A	C	I	D	■	O	V	A	■	O	P	A	L
S	H	O	W	B	O	A	T	■	U	P	T	O
S	E	N	I	O	R	■	H	I	L	L	E	D
■	■	■	N	O	M	■	E	D	D	A	■	■
A	B	C	■	M	A	P	■	A	B	U	T	S
G	R	A	B	■	N	A	G	■	E	S	A	U
E	A	R	E	D	■	T	O	P	■	E	B	B
■	■	■	O	D	D	S	■	R	I	B	■	■
F	O	U	R	T	H	■	I	T	A	L	I	C
A	L	S	O	■	O	K	L	A	H	O	M	A
R	E	E	L	■	E	E	L	■	T	B	A	R
M	O	L	L	■	D	N	A	■	S	O	M	E

Yesterday's answer 9-17



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Wade Robson, 27; Mark Brunell, 39; Kyle Chandler, 44; Cassandra Peterson, 58

Happy Birthday: This is a good time to make crucial moves that can save you time and money or to invest in something too good to pass up. Either way, you stand to come out on top and with extra cash in your pocket. Don't be afraid to act fast. Put your insight and practical outlook to good use. Your numbers are 4, 11, 17, 26, 28, 38, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Reevaluate your situation and consider where your priorities should be. Do things that will utilize your talents to the fullest. A new spin to something you've done in the past will revitalize its potential. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You've got more going for you than you realize. You have added discipline and the know-how to turn something mediocre into something spectacular. Don't be shy when you are so close to getting what you want. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Know exactly what you are talking about and have the facts to back your allegations. Someone looking for any little mistake will put what you claim under a microscope. As long as you know your stuff and you are confident, you have nothing to worry about. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You've got plenty to offer so don't sell yourself short. Hard bargaining will bring you success and help you accomplish the alterations you want to make both personally and professionally. Don't back down. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Your mind may be on other things but it's important that you think about your past, present and future financial and professional dealings. Use your experience to avoid making a common but costly mistake. A trip will pay off. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll be emotional about your life and your future. Cover up your concerns for now and deal with whatever needs tending to. Your performance and sense of responsibility will help you win in the end. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Put a little added pressure on someone who owes you a favor and you will be able to meet any demand being put on you. Showing your true feelings will not help you get what you want. Keep your thoughts to yourself for now. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Trust in your own talent and ability. Focus on the doable and you will accomplish the most. Process and put into play what you already have to offer and you will be positioned for the future. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll be caught if you try to get away with something. No matter how inconsequential, it is not a good time to take a risk. It's as if you are under a microscope and everyone is watching and waiting to see what you'll do next. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Turn on the charm and go after exactly what you want. You will not be denied and the options made available will allow you to do even more with what you receive. A financial windfall can change your life. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): As soon as you take on too great a task, pay too much or make a promise you cannot keep, you will face opposition and complaints. A love interest may lead you on or withhold information that could affect the way you feel or a commitment you made. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't be tricked by someone playing emotional games. Ask direct questions and don't settle for evasive answers. Dig deep to determine what's the best route to take in terms of partnerships and professional proposals. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are original, creative and willing to try new things—after you have done your research. You strive for security and stability throughout life.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5	8	9			7		
1					2			8
					3			6
					8		9	
		3		4		5		
	2		6					
4			2					
8			3					7
		9			1	6	2	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	3	9	7	6	4	1	8	2
8	6	1	3	2	5	4	7	9
4	7	2	1	9	8	3	6	5
9	8	6	4	1	3	5	2	7
2	1	7	5	8	6	9	4	3
3	5	4	9	7	2	6	1	8
7	2	3	6	5	1	8	9	4
1	4	8	2	3	9	7	5	6
6	9	5	8	4	7	2	3	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/16

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

OUR CAT FELICIA TURNS 15 **Solution: 7 letters**

S	S	F	E	P	Y	A	R	G	F	R	I	E	N	D
M	P	C	E	L	B	Z	U	B	M	O	C	O	J	G
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Animal, Bred, Brush, Care, Claws, Close, Comb, Companion, David, Ears, Eating, Energy, Felicia, Female, Friend, Gray, Hearing, House, Indoors, Jump, Lazy, Linda, Litter, Loveable, Mackerel, Meow, Mood, Movement, Naps, Needs, Paws, Scratching, Shed, Size, Sleep, Smell, Sophie, Sound, Space, Stretch, Tabby, Tail, Teeth, Veterinarian, Vibrissae, Vision, Water

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UP	UP	DOWN	DOWN
UP	UP	UP	UP
DOWN	UP	UP	DOWN

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Find today's solution in this section

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Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 2347753

Attorney for Petitioners

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF AND CHANGE OF NAME OF : ZOU, QIAN, Adoptee, By: FRANCIS PETER JAWORSKI, Petitioner.	FCD AD Civil Action No. 09-0535 NOTICE OF HEARING

Please take notice that at 1:30 p.m., October 22, 2009 or as soon thereafter as can be heard, this Court will hold a hearing at the Superior Court in Susupe for the specific purpose of:

1. Determining whether a decree of adoption of the adoptee Zou, Qian should be granted to Petition herein.

2. Affording any party adversely affected an opportunity to be heard.

Dated this 14th day of September, 2009.

/s/ Depurty Clerk of Court
Superior Court

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ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Dice-K back to steer Red Sox over Angels

BOSTON (AP)—Boston's Daisuke Matsuzaka returned from a three-month stint on the disabled list and pitched six shutout innings to lead the Red Sox to a 4-1 win over the Los Angeles Angels in the American League on Tuesday.

In a clash of the AL East and AL West leaders, Boston won its sixth straight game and David Ortiz hit his record-breaking 270th homer as a designated hitter.

An 18-game winner last year, Matsuzaka recorded just his second win this season. He was taken out after one batter in the seventh, having struck out five for his first win since June 2.

Blue Jays 10, Yankees 4

In New York, Jorge Posada, the New York catcher, got into a fight with Toronto pitcher Jesse Carlson, sparking a frenzied, bench-clearing brawl during the Blue Jays' victory.

Two Toronto batters were hit by pitches, and Carlson retaliated by throwing one behind Posada in the eighth.

After later scoring, Posada brushed Carlson—backing up at home plate—after crossing to complete the run. The umpire ejected Posada as Carlson shouted abuse at the catcher. The two wrestled to the ground as the benches and bullpens emptied and scuffles broke out.

Athletics 6, Rangers 1

In Arlington, Texas, Rajai Davis scored the first run then matched a career best with four RBIs for Oakland in the win over Texas.

Texas has lost four of five in its homestand and remains mired 5-1/2 games behind AL wild-card leader Boston with only 18 games left.

David Murphy's leadoff homer in the fourth snapped the Rangers' 22-inning scoreless streak, their longest in five years, but they were down 4-1 and didn't score again.

White Sox 6, Mariners 3

In Seattle, A.J. Pierzynski hit a two-run, go-ahead single in the seventh inning to lift Chicago over Seattle.

Seattle pitcher Shawn Kelley gave up two singles to start the inning. The White Sox then scored three times for a 5-3 lead, taking advantage of a shaky Seattle bullpen.

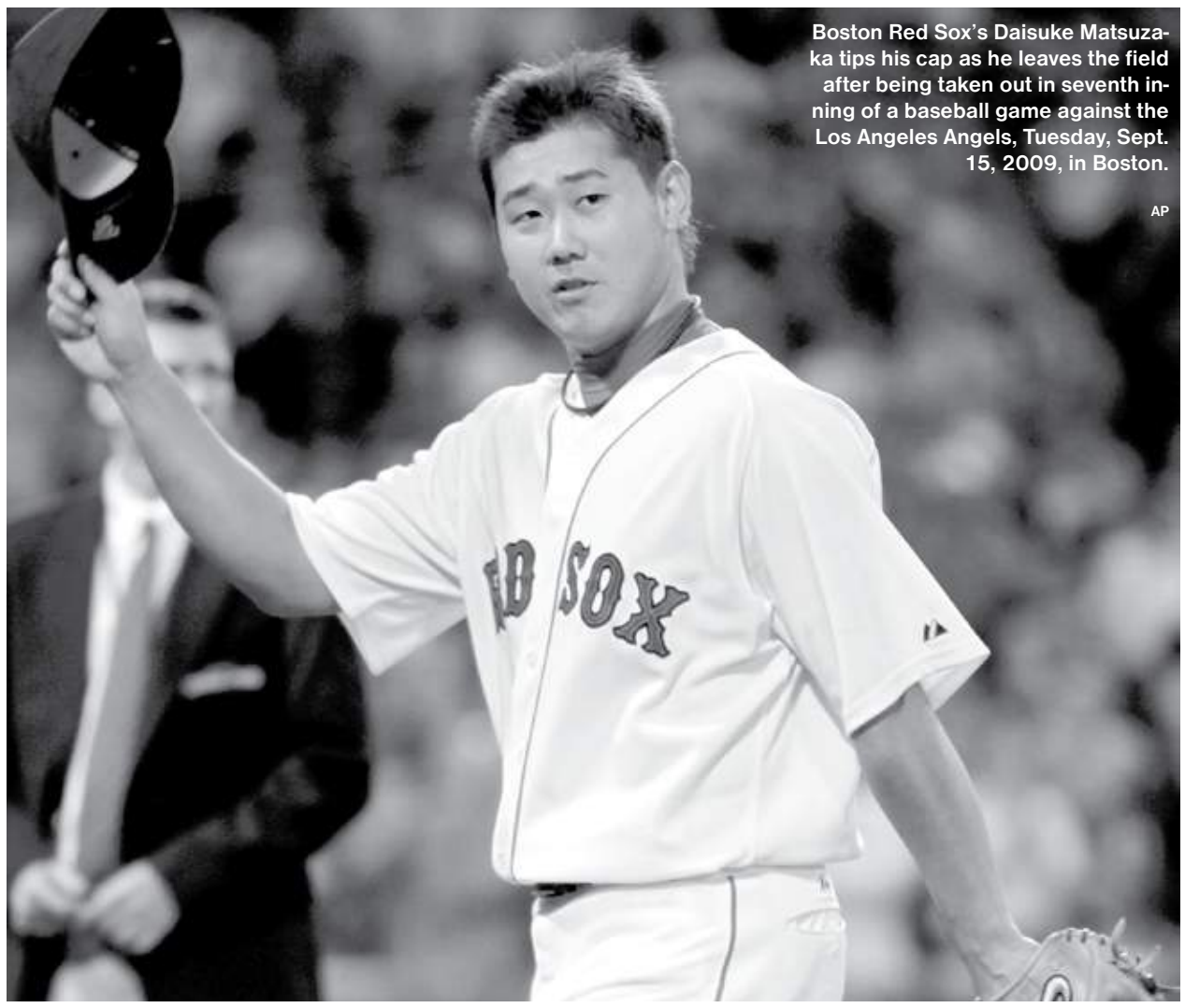
Ken Griffey Jr. hit his 626th home run—15th this season—for the Mariners in the second.

Royals 11, Tigers 1

In Detroit, Alberto Callaspo, David DeJesus and Miguel Olivo all hit three-run homers for Kansas City in the routing of Texas.

The last-place Royals have beaten the AL Central-leading Tigers five straight times, four in the past eight days.

Detroit's lead in the Central was cut to 4-1/2 games ahead of Minnesota.



Boston Red Sox's Daisuke Matsuzaka tips his cap as he leaves the field after being taken out in seventh inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels, Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009, in Boston.

AP

Twins 5, Indians 4

In Minneapolis, Nick Punto had three hits and two RBIs for Minnesota, which edged Cleveland.

Brian Buscher had a go-ahead RBI single in a two-run sixth inning and Jon Rauch pitched 1 1-3 innings of scoreless relief, helping the Twins revive their faint playoff ambitions.

Orlando Cabrera had two hits—including a solo homer—as Minnesota won its third straight game.

Orioles 10, Rays 5

In Baltimore, rookie Matt Wieters homered and had a career-high five RBIs as Baltimore rallied from a five-run deficit to defeat Tampa Bay.

Luke Scott also connected for Baltimore, which stayed a game ahead of Kansas City in the battle to avoid last place in the AL.

Brian Roberts and Cesar Izturis had three hits apiece for the Orioles, who trailed 5-0 in the third before scoring six runs over a three-inning stretch against Rays pitcher Jeff Niemann, who allowed a career-worst 11 hits in 4 1-3 innings.

Phillies 5, Nationals 0

In Philadelphia, Cliff Lee threw a six-hitter and Carlos Ruiz hit a three-run double in Philadelphia's win over Washington.

The NL East leaders have won six of eight and reduced their target for clinching their third consecutive division title to 12 with 19 games remaining.

Lee (7-2) struck out nine and walked three to record his second shutout and sixth complete game this season. He was 1-2 with a 9.60 ERA in his previous three starts after giving up three earned runs in his first five with Philadelphia.

Nationals starter Garrett Mock (3-8) allowed five runs and seven hits in six innings. The Phillies scored one run in the first and four in the second.

Braves 6, Mets 0

In Atlanta, Adam LaRoche had two homers, two doubles and drove in three runs, and rookie Tommy Hanson pitched seven innings as Atlanta won its fifth straight match.

New York has lost seven of eight.

LaRoche went 4 for 4, including solo homers in the second and the sixth, giving him 25 this season—12 since he was acquired from Boston on July 31. He had an RBI double in the fourth, and a leadoff double in the eighth. LaRoche became the first Braves player to have four extra-base hits in a game since doing it himself during his first stint with the team, on Aug. 30, 2006.

Hanson (10-3) allowed three hits and struck out eight.

Nate McLouth's two-run double off Pat Misch (1-3) finished off a three-run fourth that gave the Braves a 4-0 lead.

Reds 5, Astros 4

In Cincinnati, Paul Janish drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning with his third double to lead the Reds.

Houston reliever Sammy Gervachio (1-1) opened the seventh by hitting Corky Miller. After a sacrifice and a strikeout, Janish lined a double to right-center to help send the Astros to their third consecutive loss.

Daniel Ray Herrera (4-4) struck out Michael Bourn, the only batter he faced, to end the seventh and earn the win.

Francisco Cordero pitched the ninth for his 36th save. The Reds have won three of four.

Houston starter Roy Oswalt pitched into the sixth and allowed six hits and four runs with no walks and three strikeouts.

Marlins 2, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, rookie Sean West had a season-high nine strikeouts to outpitch 18-game winner Adam Wainwright, while Dan Uggla's two-run homer in the sixth was the go-ahead hit for Florida.

Wainwright (18-8) allowed two runs in seven innings and struck out eight, not quite good enough to make him the major leagues' first 19-game winner. He had been 6-0 with a 1.99 ERA in seven starts since Aug. 8.

The 23-year-old West (7-5) topped his previous strikeout best of seven in six strong innings. He escaped with minimal damage in the fifth when the Cardinals loaded the bases with one out. Albert Pujols settled for a sacrifice fly to give St. Louis the lead, but Matt Holliday struck out to end the inning.

Leo Nunez, the fourth Florida pitcher, worked the ninth for his 21st save.

Uggla hit his 29th homer and fourth in seven games. It was the first homer allowed in five starts by Wainwright and only the fourth in 16 outings dating to June 26.

Cubs 13, Brewers 7

At Chicago, Geovany Soto homered and drove in three runs, and Chicago took advantage of 12 walks.

Derrek Lee hit a two-run double and drove in three runs and Mike Fontenot had an RBI single and scored twice for the Cubs, who have won seven of eight.

In addition to issuing 12 walks, five Brewers pitchers combined to hit three batters, two with the bases loaded.

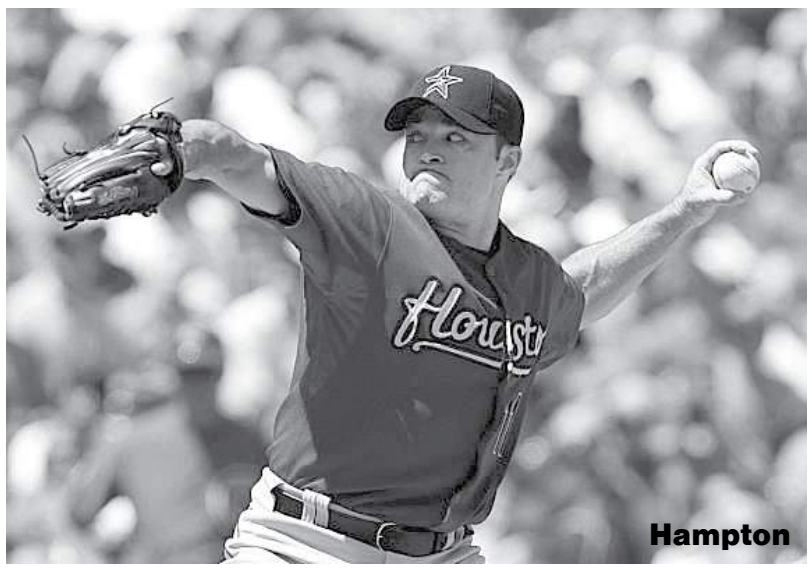
Corey Hart had a two-run double and Mike Cameron had a two-run single to cap a five-run fifth inning for the Brewers.

Milwaukee starter Yovani Gallardo couldn't hold a 5-4 lead in the fifth. He gave up a solo shot to Soto to tie it.

Cubs reliever Kevin Gregg (6-6) pitched a scoreless sixth inning.

Gallardo (12-12) allowed seven runs, seven hits and five walks in 5 1-3 innings.

Hampton to miss 2010 season after shoulder surgery



Hampton

HOUSTON (AP)—Oft-injured Houston Astros pitcher Mike Hampton is already out for next year.

Hampton has undergone surgery for a torn left rotator cuff and other damage in his shoulder that will sideline him for the 2010 season, the team said Tuesday.

The 37-year-old lefty was 7-10 with a 5.30 ERA in 112 innings over 21 starts this season, his most in a year since making 29 starts in 2004 with Atlanta.

Hampton is 148-115 lifetime with a 4.07 ERA in 2,264 career innings despite spending considerable time on the disabled list with groin, calf, back and forearm problems.

Hampton left a game on Aug. 13 at Florida after five innings because of pain in his shoulder. He went on the disabled list the next day, and decided about two weeks later to have the surgery.

"It's amazing that the guy was able to pitch this year," Astros manager Cecil Cooper said in Cincinnati. "It saddens me to think he had that tear in there. I think if anybody can bounce back, it's Mike. He's done that a lot."

The Astros said surgeons at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York repaired a full tear in the rotator cuff.

Hampton, a two-time All-Star who broke into the majors in 1993, missed all of the 2006 and 2007 seasons after operations on his elbow. He was limited by a strained left pectoral muscle to 13 starts last season with Atlanta.

Hampton can become a free agent after this season. He signed an eight-year, $121 million deal with Colorado after the 2000 season, and has gone 63-62 since then.

Houston third baseman Aaron Boone, who missed the entire 2004 season because of knee surgery, said he wouldn't be surprised to see Hampton pitch again in 2011.

"I could see him coming back, just because he's had so many injuries," said Boone, who had open heart surgery in March and returned to the Astros on Sept. 2. "To his credit, he's always fought back. He takes of himself, and he's in great shape."

"The perception is people begrudge him what he makes, and he could have gone home, but he continues to battle. He's a phenomenal athlete. He's been a very good pitcher for a long time. I wouldn't put anything past him," he said.

Eagles add Vick to roster; Baskett released

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Michael Vick can throw passes to his teammates instead of ball boys.

The Philadelphia Eagles elevated Vick to the team's 53-man roster Tuesday, a move that allows the quarterback to practice with the team.

Wide receiver Hank Baskett was released to make room for Vick, who is eligible to play Sept. 27 against the Kansas City Chiefs. Vick will begin practicing with the team Wednesday, though he cannot play in Sunday's home opener against the New Orleans Saints. Vick was suspended for the first two regular-season games as the final league penalty for his role in running a dogfighting ring.

Kevin Kolb is expected to take the snaps with the starters Wednesday because Donovan McNabb has a cracked rib. Jeff Garcia was signed to back up Kolb in case McNabb can't play.

Vick was brought in to give the Eagles another dimension on offense. He ran Philadelphia's version of the wildcat offense and took some snaps as a traditional QB under center in two preseason games.

The Eagles were heavily criticized by animal rights activists for signing Vick less than a month after he finished serving 18 months in federal prison. Dozens of protesters voiced their outrage outside the team's practice facility the day after Vick was signed, and many fans threatened to give up their tickets.

A month later, Vick's jersey is the fourth-highest seller in the NFL behind Brett Favre, Jay Cutler and Troy Polamalu. The league rankings are based on the sales period from April 1 to Aug. 28, so Vick—and Favre, for that matter—had plenty of catching up to do since both joined their teams last month.

Vick hasn't played in a regular-season game since Dec. 31, 2006, when he was with the Atlanta Falcons. It's highly unlikely he would have started even if he were eligible to play this week. Eagles coach Andy Reid has maintained all along that Kolb is McNabb's backup.

Baskett was one of seven receivers the Eagles carried on their 53-man roster through Week 1. He became expendable after Philadelphia selected Jeremy Maclin in the first round of April's draft and added Brandon Gibson in the sixth round.

Baskett had 72 catches for 1,052 yards and six touchdowns in 48 games with the Eagles.

Sessions to fill Rubio's shoes in Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—When Ricky Rubio told the Minnesota Timberwolves he was planning on staying in Spain for at least the next two years, word quickly spread to restricted free agent Ramon Sessions.

His agent, James Wells, called Sessions and told his client they should consider contacting Minnesota to see if there was any interest in bringing the 23-year-old point guard in as a replacement.

Sessions quickly agreed, but Timberwolves president of basketball operations David Kahn was even faster on the dial.

"When I found out he wasn't coming over, me and my agent talked about it, and not five hours later (the Timberwolves) were calling," Sessions said Tuesday. "It was the best situation for me and I'm happy to be here."

Sessions signed a four-year, $16 million offer sheet with the Wolves. When the Milwaukee Bucks declined to match the offer Friday, Sessions packed his bags for Minnesota, where he will join rookie point guard Jonny Flynn in a young Timberwolves backcourt.

"Clearly if Ricky would have come, there wouldn't have been an opportunity to add Ramon," Kahn said at Sessions' introductory press conference. "We would have been filled up in the backcourt and there wouldn't have been enough playing time for somebody of Ramon's caliber to join us.

"When Ricky made his decision that he wanted to spend another two years over there, within in the next 36 hours is when we did decide to move forward with Ramon."

The Timberwolves selected the 18-year-old Rubio with the fifth overall pick in June, then commenced on a summer-long dance with him, his agents and the Spanish pro team that still had him under contract.

Kahn made three trips to Spain in hopes of negotiating a deal to bring the precocious passer to the United States. He reached an agreement with DKV Joventut at the end of August. But Rubio backed out less than 48 hours later, telling Kahn he preferred to stay in Spain for at least the next two years to get more ready for the NBA and reduce the amount of a multimillion dollar buyout in his contract.

Without Rubio, the Timberwolves needed another point guard to take some of the burden off of Flynn, the sixth overall pick in the draft.

Sessions, who averaged 12.4 points and 5.7 assists for the Bucks last season, talked earlier in the summer with the New York Knicks and the Los Angeles Clippers. But he never received an offer from either team and was starting to get a little antsy with training camps opening in less than a month.

"It was a long, crazy period for me and I wound up losing a lot of sleep over this," Sessions said.

In Minnesota, the 6-foot-3 Sessions will play the point guard position he's played his entire life, but also will move to shooting guard on occasion and pair with Flynn in a small, but dynamic, backcourt.

"In the times that they do play together it's going to be pretty fun to watch because of their ability of both of them to create for other people, to get inside the lane, either to draw a foul or find a teammate," Kahn said.

Sessions got plenty of time at shooting guard last season after Olympian Michael Redd went down with a knee injury. He topped 20 points 11 times in 79 games, including a 44-point, 12-assist game against Detroit on Feb. 7.

"This past year was really my first year playing off the ball and I felt really comfortable with it," Sessions said. "With Michael Redd going down in Milwaukee, that gave me the opportunity to show that I can off the ball a little bit so I'm definitely looking forward to that challenge."

Kahn has said time and again all summer long that the rebuilding Timberwolves are probably a year or two away from being competitive in the Western Conference playoff race. But he also said that adding Sessions, instead of Rubio, will help them more in the short term.

"I think that Ramon is clearly more capable of helping us right now than Ricky would have been because of where he is in his development stage," Kahn said. "In a weird way, the team became more mature and improved with this move in particular."

NBA BRIEFS

Riley, Spoelstra taking cuts in salary

MIAMI (AP)—Miami Heat basketball operations employees have accepted up to a 20 percent pay cut in order to avoid layoffs. The cuts affect everyone in the department, including team president Pat Riley, head coach Erik Spoelstra, assistant coaches, scouts and others. The South Florida Sun-Sentinel first reported the salary reduction in its Tuesday editions. Player salaries are not being affected. The Heat laid off 20 members of its business operations staff in May as a result of the economic downturn. In 2003, the franchise asked employees to accept 10 percent pay cuts because of falling revenues. Lower ticket prices and scaled-back sponsorship deals have decreased revenue around the NBA, which is projecting further reductions over the coming year.

Suns buy out contract of Sasha Pavlovic

PHOENIX (AP)—The Phoenix Suns reached an agreement on a contract buyout with swingman Sasha Pavlovic, who was acquired from Cleveland as part of the trade that sent Shaquille O'Neal to the Cavaliers. Terms of the buyout were not disclosed Tuesday. Pavlovic's contract was acquired along with that of center Ben Wallace, a future conditional second-round selection and cash considerations from Cleveland in exchange for O'Neal on June 25. The Suns and Wallace agreed to a contract buyout on July 13. The 25-year-old Pavlovic originally was a first-round pick of the Utah Jazz in the 2003 draft. He spent the last five seasons with the Cavaliers. In Game 2 of the Eastern Conference finals, Pavlovic scored nine points in 21 minutes in the 96-95 win over the Orlando Magic.

AP

Philadelphia Eagles' Michael Vick is shown after arriving for an NFL football game against the Carolina Panthers in Charlotte, N.C., Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009.

Belichick says Mayo injury not season-ending

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Patriots linebacker Jerod Mayo probably will play again this season after hurting his right knee in the opener, welcome news for a team that lost Tom Brady for the 2008 season to a knee injury in the first game.

"I don't think that's what it is," New England coach Bill Belichick said Tuesday when asked if he could rule out Mayo's injury being season-ending.

Belichick, who rarely gives details or timetables for injuries, didn't go beyond that, leaving it unclear when Mayo, last year's NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year, might return. He said additional information would be in Wednesday's post-practice injury report.

He declined to address a report last week that Mayo hurt his left shoulder in the fourth game last season. Mayo played all 16 games and led the Patriots with 139 tackles.

He began calling defensive signals late in the season and his significance to the defense increased this year after outside linebacker Mike Vrabel was traded to Kansas City and inside linebacker Tedy Bruschi retired.

Mayo was hurt Monday night with just over four minutes left in the first quarter of the Patriots 25-24 win over the Buffalo Bills. Brady brought them back from an 11-point deficit with two touchdown passes to Benjamin Watson in the fourth quarter.

Mayo lasted longer than Brady did in last year's opener, a 17-10 win over the Kansas City Chiefs. The quarterback tore ligaments in his left knee with 7:33 gone in the quarter.

It was a tough opening weekend for top linebackers. Buffalo's Paul Posluszny broke his arm Monday night but isn't expected to miss the whole season. On Sunday night, Chicago's Brian Urlacher had a season-ending wrist injury.

Belichick said in a conference call that the Patriots are prepared to stick with their game plan when injuries strike.

"We go into every game with the entire team understanding that we have to have somebody to replace somebody else at every position," he said.

After Mayo was hurt, the Patriots relied more on a 4-3 alignment than a 3-4, leaving starting inside linebacker Gary Guyton as the middle linebacker.

"Everybody kind of learns a couple different spots," defensive coordinator Dean Pees said Tuesday. "It is hard when a guy hasn't practiced that position all week. But for the most part they understand what to do. It's just a matter of recognition."

New England's offense sputtered for much of the game, taking time to settle into the regular season. Randy Moss said he was nervous but still made 12 catches for 141 yards.

"There's no way to simulate game speed on opening day on a practice field or in preseason," Belichick said. "Hopefully, we'll be able to improve ... and, I think, to some extent we did during the course of the game."

New England faces another AFC East opponent when it visits the New York Jets on Sunday.

First-year coach Jets Rex Ryan already has stoked the long rivalry between the teams, saying in August that he's "not intimidated" by Belichick.

"I think that's all not really that relevant," said Belichick, who led the Patriots to three Super Bowl titles this decade. "The most important thing to us is we're playing a division game on the road.

"However you want to say that—put it in capital letters or put it in italics or phrase it however you want to phrase it—I think division games are big games on our schedule and playing them on the road, those are huge."

Ryan said in a radio interview in June that he didn't come to New York "to kiss Bill Belichick's rings."

On Tuesday, Belichick was asked if anyone had ever kissed his rings.

He paused before answering.

"Uh," Belichick said, "I don't think so."

NMI invited to compete in Masters Baseball in Manila

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI has been invited to participate in the 2009 Masters Baseball Tournament in Manila this November.

If the Commonwealth accedes to the request, the islands will be represented by essentially the same players who regularly compete in biennial masters tournament in Guam.

One of the team's sluggers, Manny Tenorio, said they are now organizing an initial meeting this week to re-organize and discuss preparations for the Philippine trip.

"We have to meet immediately and prepare for a fundraising for this tournament," Tenorio said.

It would be the first time for the CNMI to compete in the Manila masters tournament.

Tenorio said Guam, which had been competing regularly in Manila, invited the CNMI to play there.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Tony Rogolifoi will be one of the masters players that will see action for the CNMI if the Commonwealth sends a team to the 2009 Masters Baseball Tournament in Manila this November.

Ben Cabrera is the president of Saipan's masters baseball team.

Aside from Tenorio and Cabrera, the other players in the CNMI lineup are Tony Rogolifoi, Reno Celes, Mark Flores, Tony Benavente, Diego Benavente, Ben Duenas, Mike Muna, Ed Santos, Ed Sablan, Robert Lizama, Wally Yumul, and Bo Camacho.

Four other sluggers will be joining the 18-man crew.

This team played last summer in Guam and managed to finish third place behind powerhouse Australia and host Guam.

Rogolifoi said they had previously completed two runner-up stints in the Guam masters classic.

"We are excited to play in the Philippines," said Rogolifoi, who just won a roundtrip ticket to Manila after ruling last Saturday's Juan Pan-Camacho fundraising golf tournament at the west course of Laolao Golf Resort in Kagman.

Slots still available for Docomo/PCA softball

Slots are still available for the 3rd Annual Docomo Pacific-Palauan Community Association Softball Tournament set to start on Sept. 19 at Dandan Ballfield.

PCA president Rufino Aguon is reminding interested teams that the deadline for submission of entries and rosters will be today, Sept. 17.

There will be a technical meeting on that date starting at 6pm at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium. Entry fees will be due during the meeting.

All the team managers of participating teams are required to attend this meeting.

Aguon said that the entry fee is $200 per team.

The tournamemt will adopt a double-elimination format with a guaranteed prize of $500 for the champion and a carved trophy.

The tournament will be played on three weekends with the first one set for Sept. 19 and 20.

The second part of the tournament will take place on Sept. 26 and 27, while the games in the third week will be played on Oct. 3.

However, if there would be more than 10 teams that sign up, the fee would only be $150.

Contact persons for interested teams are Dennis Ngirchongor, Brian Adelbai, Poland Yamada, Perez Besong, Mike Towai, and Aguon. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Eight teams sign up for government dart league

As of yesterday afternoon, a total of eight teams have signed up for the inaugural Inter-Government Dart League scheduled to start tomorrow night in different venues on Saipan.

Leading the list is Team Haasmode, which is composed of players from three government agencies, namely Public School System, Immigration, and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. They chose The Flair as their homecourt for the duration the tournament.

Coastal Resources Management Spartans will be at Remington, while Hopwood/PSS will call Naked Fish Bar its home.

DCCA Dartbeders also made Naked Fish Bar its home, while Department of Public Works Trouble Shooters selected Jonny's Bar.

The Saipan Mayor's Office Bulldozers, for its part, adopted the newly established Sandy's Bar and Grill.

Team CUC and PSS Assassins still have to find a home.

Tournament ground rules would be based on the Saipan Electronic Dart Association bylaws and games will be played every Friday night.

Slots are still available with 16 bar and grill establishments on island to choose from.

Current government employees as well as retirees and federal employees are allowed to play, while U.S. Army Reserve officers are also welcome to participate in this event.

Each team roster must be composed of a minimum of four player and a maximum of eight.

Entry fee is $20 per player, which would go to the banquet and supplies for official stats.

For more information, contact Derron Flores at 664-2503. Those interested can also call 233-4397 and look for Cecil or Warlee. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

NO STOPPING

From Page 28

recently came back from vacation in Manila.

Youth player Daniel Macario, meanwhile, pulled off the biggest surprise of the weekend when he upset Robert Reyes, 21-17, 21-17.

Reyes' woes continued in his match against Ferdie Arago, as he also lost that one in three sets, 21-13, 7-21, 17-21.

Arago was able to build on that momentum and defeated tireless Gary Bandoja, 21-16, 21-17 for a sweep of his weekend assignments.

In the men's singles B, Roger Vales continued to defy father time as he eked out two close wins last weekend.

Vales rallied against James Digno, 17-21, 21-11, 21-19, and then needed a late surge to take out Aries Cordero, 21-17. 17-21, 21-8.

Jojo Savellano failed to duplicate Vales' feat as he split his two games. He lost to youthful Keno San Pablo, 13-21, 16-21, before getting the better of Cordero 15-21, 21-12, 21-11.

Manatsu Omori, for his part, was a busy bee in the men's C singles last weekend. He first beat Rob Harrell, 21-16, 21-17, and then needed three sets to hurdle Luis Camacho, 22-24, 21-17, 21-18. All that action, obviously left him ragged and he dropped his third game against Rodwealth Espana, 21-23, 12-21.

Ezekiel Macario defeated Harrell, 21-13, 21-18, in the only other game in the men's C singles last weekend.

Only two games were played in the women's singles last weekend and the results were not that pretty for Loyda Ito, as she lost to Malou Malarte, 11-21, 7-21, and to Lucelle Lampera, 12-21, 14-21.

Results of the men's, women's, and mixed doubled will be published in tomorrow's edition of the *Saipan Tribune*.

MP UNITED

From Page 28

in favor, 16 goals against, and +17 goals drawn for 23 points.

MP United is running second with 6-1-5 win-draw-loss card, 43 goals scored, 31 goals allowed, and +12 goals drawn for 19 points.

Third-ranked Independents FC has 6-1-5 slate (27 GF, 33 GA, and -6 GD for 19 points), while KFAS is in fourth place with a 6-0-6 record (36 GF, 41 GA, and -5 GD for 18 points).

Rounding out the seven-team field are K Junior (5-1-6, 33 GF, 30 GA and +3 GD for 16 points), Remington (4-26, 33 GF, 48 GA and -15 GD for 14 points), and Matansa FC (4-17, 27 GF, 33 GA and -6 GD for 13 points).

ROTARY

From Page 28

resume starting tomorrow, Sept. 17, 2009. Two games are schedule for Rotary, while no games are scheduled for the government/business caging," said Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands spokesman Abner Venus.

Tomorrow's scheduled match in the Rotary caging will feature the league-leading Sonics against the Rebels.

The government/business league, meanwhile, will return to action on Friday, Sept. 18, with Micronesian Brokers, Inc. taking on league-leading IT&E in the 7pm first game, followed by the Tinian and NTT Docomo encounter in the second game, beginning 8:30pm.

Basketball leagues using the Ada Gym were cancelled the past couple of days as the site served as an evacuation center for families displaced by super typhoon Choi-Wan.

Packing winds of as much as 150 mph near the center, Choi-Wan forced Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to close government offices and the Public School System to suspend classes. Some businesses also allowed their employees to go home early, save for essential personnel.

Venus said the cancelled games will be played during make-up dates that will be decided by the league, which most probably be after the end of the regular season.

Cancelled games in the IT&E caging Monday night were the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs-IT&E and NTT Docomo-Customs match-ups.

Commonwealth Ports Authority Accounting, for its part, was supposed to play Hyatt Regency Saipan Tuesday's lone game.

The doubleheader last night, meanwhile, would have featured Department of Community and Cultural Affairs taking on CPA-ARFF in the first game and Micronesian Brokers, Inc. tangling with Commonwealth Health Center in the second game.

In the Rotary caging, cancelled games were the Tuesday game between league-leading Sonics and the struggling Young 670 Rollers 3 and last night's Rollers II and G-Stars tussle.

For more information, about the IT&E and Rotary basketball league, check the www.fibaoceania.com for updates or contact Venus at 483-4906.

RULES

From Page 28

forms are now available at the Trench Tech Gym in Afetnas or email him at trenchwarriorsaipan@yahoo.com to print a copy of both entry forms and the ground rules.

Alvarez said that it would be Japan vs. Saipan in the superfight card but no available names are available as of presstime.

The tournament will be a single-elimination format, with the winner advancing to the next round, while the loser will vie for the consolation place in the loser's bracket.

Rash guards and wrestling shoes are optional and the wrestling area is 14x14-meter area with no cage or fence.

"If the fighters go out of this area the referee will restart the fight in the center of the mat, in the same position where they left the mat. If the fighters were standing they will start again and face each other," said Alvarez.

Only three main techniques will be allowed in the event:

■ Any kind of choke (except for using the hand to close the wind pipe)

■ Any arm bar, shoulder lock or wristlock

■ Any knee bar or straight ankle lock (no heel hooks).

Illegal techniques include full nelson and heel hooks, striking of any kind, eye-gouging or fish-hooking, finger or toe holds, thumbing, scratching and pinching, kicking, biting, and hands/knees or elbows on the face,.

Alvarez added that no slippery substances will be allowed on the body or clothing.

To secure points, a mount position will get four points, the same awarded for back mount with hooks. Passing the guard can get three points, and two points will be given for knee on stomach, clean sweep, and takedowns of any kind and sweep.

Five points would be awarded to clean takedown.

Each position must be established for three seconds or more in order for points to be awarded. When changing multiple positions, points will be awarded only for the positions that have been established for three seconds or more. Reversals are considered sweeps as well.

The different weight classes for AOW IV are 100-130 lbs. (bantamweight), 131-140 lbs. (featherweight), 141-150 lbs. (super lightweight), 151-160 lbs. (lightweight), 161-180 lbs. (welterweight), 181-200 lbs. (middleweight), and 201 lbs. and over (heavyweight).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	93	53	.637	—
Boston	85	58	.594	6 1/2
Tampa Bay	73	72	.503	19 1/2
Toronto	66	79	.455	26 1/2
Baltimore	59	85	.410	33

Central Division

Detroit	77	67	.535	—
Minnesota	73	72	.503	4 1/2
Chicago	72	73	.497	5 1/2
Cleveland	61	83	.424	16
Kansas City	58	86	.403	19

West Division

Los Angeles	86	58	.597	—
Texas	80	64	.556	6
Seattle	74	71	.510	12 1/2
Oakland	66	78	.458	20

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	83	60	.580	—
Florida	77	68	.531	7
Atlanta	76	68	.528	7 1/2
New York	63	82	.434	21
Washington	50	94	.347	33 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	85	61	.582	—
Chicago	75	68	.524	8 1/2
Houston	70	75	.483	14 1/2
Milwaukee	69	75	.479	15
Cincinnati	66	79	.455	18 1/2
Pittsburgh	55	88	.385	28 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	87	59	.596	—
Colorado	82	64	.562	5
San Francisco	79	66	.545	7 1/2
San Diego	65	81	.445	22
Arizona	64	82	.438	23

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 5, Washington 0
Cincinnati 5, Houston 4
Atlanta 6, N.Y. Mets 0
Chicago Cubs 13, Milwaukee 7
Florida 2, St. Louis 1
Arizona 4, San Diego 2
L.A. Dodgers 5, Pittsburgh 4, 13 innings
San Francisco 10, Colorado 2
Kansas City 11, Detroit 1
Baltimore 10, Tampa Bay 5
Toronto 10, N.Y. Yankees 4
Boston 4, L.A. Angels 1
Oakland 6, Texas 1
Minnesota 5, Cleveland 4
Chicago White Sox 6, Seattle 3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oceania Table Tennis Federation Clinic

Photos by NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

OTTF development officer Scott Houston teaches these youngsters how to serve properly.

Visiting OTTF development officer Scott Houston demonstrates the proper way to serve.

Above, kids who joined the clinic conducted by Oceania Table Tennis Federation development officer Scott Houston, standing fourth from right, pose for a photo with members and officers of the Marianas Table Tennis Association led by president Steve Lim (second row left) and vice president Budhi Gurung (third row, third from right).

Left, MATTA president Steve Lim demonstrates the effective way to return the ball as OTTF development officer Scott Houston observes.

Above, another beginner serves as Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Associaiton president Steve Lim looks on.

Right, beginners get a rare chance to play the sport with the help from players who have played ping-pong more than half their lifetime.

These two youngsters only started to learn how to play table tennis during a clinic conducted by Oceania Table Tennis Federation development officer Scott Houston last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

MATTA president Steve Lim gives youngsters some help.

NMI invited to compete in Masters Baseball in Manila

The CNMI had been invited to participate in the 2009 Masters Baseball Tournament in Manila this November.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Dice-K back to steer Red Sox over Angels

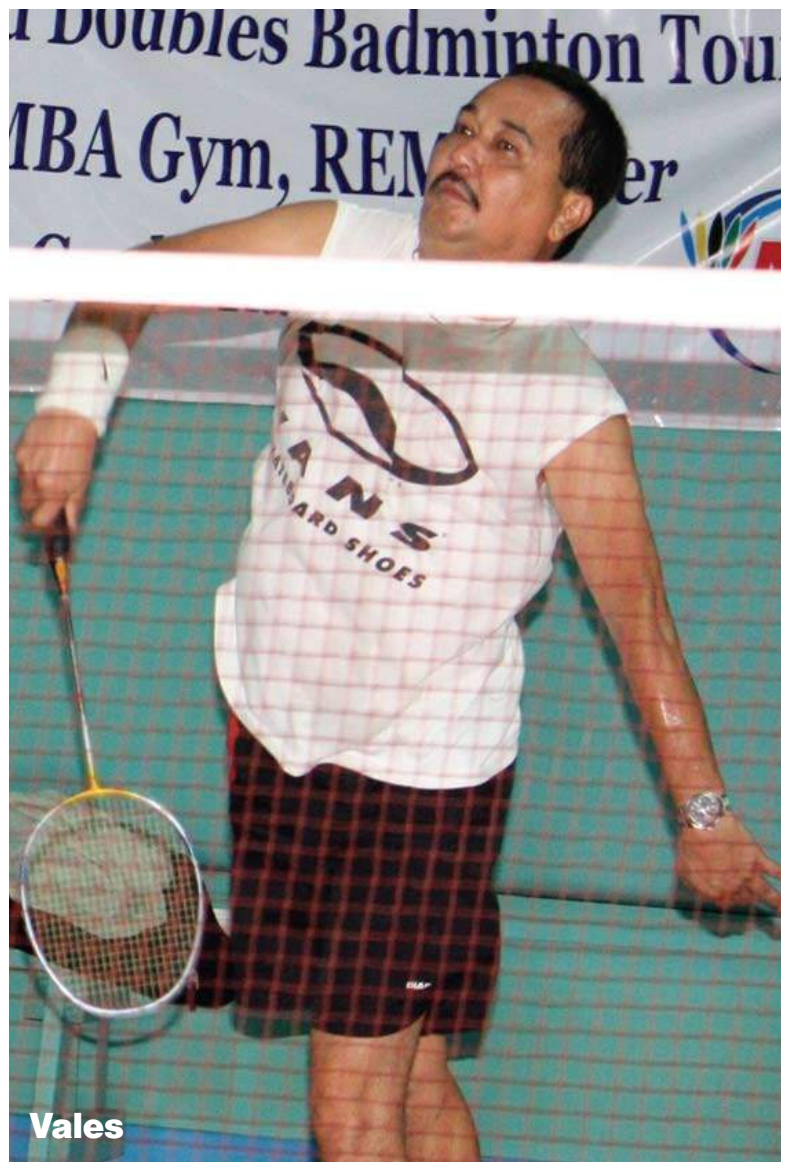
Boston's Daisuke Matsuzaka returned from a three-month stint on the disabled list and pitched six shutout innings to lead the Red Sox to a 4-1 win over the Los Angeles Angels.

24

No stopping Aguda in badminton singles

Vales survives tough three-setters in men's B division

Aguda



Vales

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Macoi Aguda continued his unbeaten streak in the IT&E Singles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament over the weekend at the REM Court in Gualo Rai.

The Shirley's Coffee Shop supervisor won all his three games in the men's A singles division, although he encountered an unexpected challenge from up-and-coming Andreau Galvez.

Aguda had to work double time to beat Galvez, as the two split the first two sets before he displayed his trademark smashes and carefully placed drop shots for a 21-19, 19-21, 21-15 victory.

Edwin Montoyo, meanwhile, had no such luck against Aguda as the long-serving Northern Marianas Badminton Association vice president was badly beaten in a score of 11-21, 12-21.

Aguda also didn't give good friend Hapi Gabriel much of a reprieve, as he defeated him 21-17, 21-6. Gabriel

See NO STOPPING on Page 26

Rotary, IT&E caging matches to resume

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Games in the IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League resumes tomorrow at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. File photo shows CHC's Joe Tudela battling for the rebound against IT&E's Darwin Barbo and Bruce Berline during their game last week.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

With super typhoon Choi-Wan leaving the CNMI's area of responsibility and the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium back in harness, the Rotary Club of Saipan Youth Basketball League and the IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League will resume action tomorrow and Friday.

"Just want to inform you that games in the Rotary and government/business leagues will

See ROTARY on Page 26

MP United's Miller takes over scoring lead

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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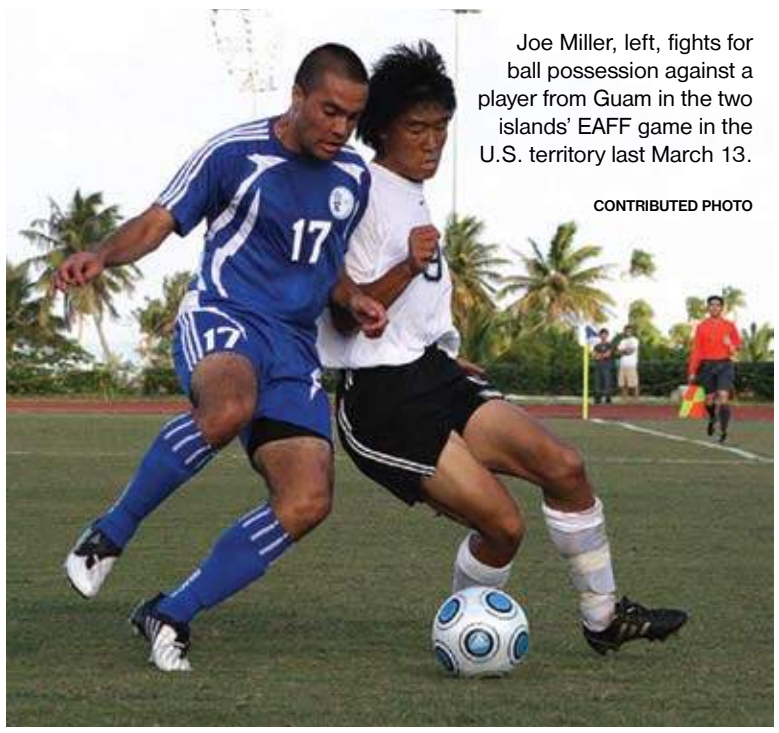
REPORTER



Joe Miller, left, fights for ball possession against a player from Guam in the two islands' EAFF game in the U.S. territory last March 13.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joe Miller found the back of the net six times in MP United's 7-2 win over Remington last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The six scores not only led his team to the lopsided win, but also pushed Miller to the lead in the race for the golden boot award, which is given to the player with the most goals in the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Men's League.

Miller's six goals gave him 23 scores for the season and one ahead of erstwhile frontrunner Thoengaket Jeeraphong of Remington, who managed just one goal in the loss to give him 22.

Ko Brian of K Junior is a far third with 13 goal, while Independents FC teammates Jari Voutilainen and Jason Schroeder are in fourth and fifth places with 12 and 10 scores, respectively.

Brian made K Junior's two goals in a 2-5 defeat to Independents last Sunday.

Schroeder, for his part, put in the first three goals of his team in that game while Voutilianen connected in the last two.

Completing the Top 10 scoring leaders in the ongoing league are Cris Nelson of Inter Godfather's and Kamrul of Matansa FC with nine goals apiece.

MP United's Jeon Dae Min is running eighth with eight goals, while Lee Jun Woo of KFAS and Lim Jae Hyuck of K Junior are tied at ninth place with six goals apiece.

In the team standings, Inter Godfather's is currently on top with seven wins, two draws, three losses, 33 goals

See MP UNITED on Page 26

Rules in grappling challenge released

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Alvarez

Hair pulling, grabbing of the ears, touching the groin, and holding on the trunks are just some of the illegal techniques in the upcoming Art of War IV: All-Island Grappling/Submission Challenge.

Trench Tech Purebread Gym released yesterday the rules and regulations for the AOW IV set for Oct. 10.

Its president Cuki Alvarez said that registration

See RULES on Page 26